

Drexel Heights Fire District

Drexel Heights 2000—2007



To those interested in the history of the Drexel Heights Fire District. We have put together all the information that we have. If you have additional information, articles, photos, etc. we would be very interested in adding them to this collection. Please contact Al Ring, ringal@comcast.net to make arrangements. We do not have to keep any of the items. We scan copies and return or you can scan them or copy them and mail or e-mail them. Make it easy on yourself.

Drexel Heights Fire District originally began providing fire and emergency services to the south and southwest areas outside the City of Tucson back in May 1954. The articles of incorporation papers were filed by members of the Drexel Heights Community association. In those days the Drexel Heights Community Association Volunteer Fire Department provided services all the way to what is now the City of South Tucson.

On March 13, 2001, Drexel Heights Fire District merged with the Tucson Estates Fire District. This added a fourth fire station, six more firefighters, and several new communities. Tucson Estates, the Foothills, and the surrounding neighborhoods welcomed Drexel Heights firefighters and have been very supportive of the Fire District and its services.

The District constructed a new station in the ever growing Star Valley Community. In March 2010, DHFD's fifth station was dedicated to the residents and community.

Drexel Heights Fire District has come a long way since 1954. But no one will ever forget the determination and sacrifices made by a handful of daring individuals who saw a community need for fire protection, and found a way to make it a reality.

2000

January 2, 2000, DHFD:



City of South Tucson
Community Service
Award



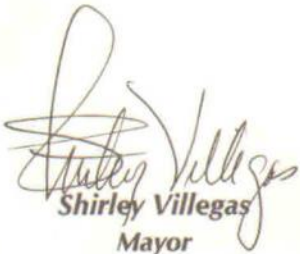
Presented To:

Drexel Heights
Fire District

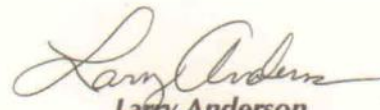
In sincere acknowledgement of your unique contributions in serving the citizens of the City of South Tucson.

Your generous support and outstanding commitment to mutual aid response in preserving the health, safety and welfare of our community is gratefully appreciated. Your dedication and strong spirit of community partnership is truly exemplary.

January 28, 2000


Shirley Villegas
Mayor




Larry Anderson
Fire Chief

2000

March 14, 2000, DHFD:



September 28, 2000, *Tucson Citizen*:

Man charged in fatal crash

by La Monica Everett-Haynes on Sep 28, 2000, under Tucson and Arizona

 1  Recommend  Share  2

Raimundo Hernandez Jr. faces a 2nd-degree murder charge after his wife dies in a Gates Pass crash.

By LA MONICA EVERETT-HAYNES

Citizen Staff Writer

A man whose car plunged over a 200-foot embankment at Gates Pass yesterday, killing his wife, has been charged with second-degree murder and aggravated DUI, deputies said.

Sandra Faye Hernandez, 31, died at the scene.

Her husband, Raimundo Hernandez Jr., 38, was injured when their Nissan sedan careened off Gates Pass Road on a curve.

He was arrested yesterday and charged in the death of his wife after he was released from University Medical Center, said Deputy Deanna Coultas, a Pima County sheriff's spokeswoman.

The aggravated DUI charge refers to the fact he was driving while his license was suspended for a previous DUI, Coultas said.

Coultas said Raimundo Hernandez was driving west down a steep grade in the 6600 block of the scenic road in the Tucson Mountains about 12:30 p.m. when the car left the road and "drove directly over the side" of the embankment.

The speed limit is 25 mph. The car's speed has not been determined, Coultas said.

No other cars were involved, she said.

"It's a two-lane roadway. It is fairly narrow and mountainous," Coultas said of the spot.

"If the speeds are followed and people are not under the influence of alcohol and drugs, they should be fairly safe in negotiating the curves."

Coultas said Sandra Hernandez was ejected from the car, but Drexel Heights Fire Marshal Howard Rosenberg said her husband removed her.

He did not know if either wore a seat belt.

The point where the car went over the edge has no guardrail, Rosenberg said. "It's just at the border line of being a cliff . . . so why there are no guardrails, I have no idea," he said.

Cars plunge down the embankment about twice a year, sometimes with fatal results, he said.

"People go (over Gates Pass) for the overlook, the scenery, a way to Old Tucson and the (Arizona-Sonora Desert) museum," he said.

"The view from Gates Pass is beautiful, but I don't know why they were out there."

The status of the Hernandezes' relationship was unclear, deputies said. The couple had separate Tucson addresses.

PHOTO CAPTION: GARY GAYNOR/Tucson Citizen

Paramedics carry Raimundo Hernandez Jr., 38, up a 200-foot embankment after the car he was driving went off Gates Pass Road. He was flown to University Medical Center. His injuries were described as not life-threatening. His wife, 31, was killed.

2000

December 22, 2000, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/2000/12/22/38484-man-found-dead-in-sw-side-mobile-home-fire/>

Tucson Citizen

Man found dead in SW Side mobile home fire

by David L. Teibel on Dec 22, 2000, under Tucson and Arizona



A 73-year-old man was the sole occupant of the home.

By DAVID L. TEIBEL

Citizen Staff Writer

Firefighters found a man burned beyond recognition in a Southwest Side mobile home this morning after putting out a fire that destroyed the home.

Drexel Heights Assistant Fire Chief Gary Bynum said the man's body was found in a living room chair.

The man's name was not released, but Bynum said firefighters believe he was the 73-year-old sole occupant of the home, on West Camino Tierra, near West Valencia Road and South Camino de Oeste.

The fire's cause hasn't been determined but "it does not look suspicious," Bynum said.

The man apparently had been using his kitchen stove and a space heater to heat the home, and one of those appliances may have started the fire, he said.

The fire was reported at 3:27 a.m. When firefighters arrived, flames already had eaten through the center of the mobile home, Bynum said.

About 15 Drexel Heights and Pascua Yaqui firefighters brought the fire under control in about eight minutes, he said.

2001

March 13, 2001, Courtesy DHFD, carried:

Drexel Heights
Firefighters



Tucson Estates
Firefighters

**Your Firefighters Support It....
....So Should You!!**

**ON MARCH 13TH
VOTE YES**

**On The Merger Of
Drexel Heights Fire District
&
Tucson Estates Fire District**

Benefits of Merger

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☺ Shorter response times to some areas. | ☺ A larger district is a stronger district. |
| ☺ Increase in available resources. | ☺ Eliminate duplicate services. |
| ☺ Increase in available manpower. | ☺ Taxes will <u>NOT</u> be increased as a result of merger. |

Vote YES.... It Makes Sense!

April 21, 2001, *Tucson Citizen*:

Coping with disaster

by David L. Teibel on Apr 21, 2001, under Tucson and Arizona

 0  Recommend  Share  0

Fire took everything but a family's hope

By DAVID L. TEIBEL

Citizen Staff Writer

The Stroup family was left financially strapped and emotionally devastated when fire swept through their Drexel Heights mobile home April 13.

They were left homeless, their pets were killed, family heirlooms were destroyed. The family's link to its past was severed, its present turned into a nightmare.

"It was devastating," said Leslie Stroup. "Everything we've worked so hard for is gone."

With nearly 600 residential fires displacing more than 200 families a year in the Tucson metro area, fire authorities say it is a scene that plays out about once every other day here.

Trauma and loss are common feelings in such situations, said Gary Bynum, Drexel Heights Fire District's assistant chief.

It is almost "like someone died," Bynum said of the effect such fires have on victims.

"They've lost everything, sometimes family heirlooms from grandma and grandpa, things they can't replace," he said.

"The older they (victims) are and the younger they are, it seems to hit them worse," Bynum said. "Most of it is because they've lost that touch to the past. It's gone forever."

When the Stroups learned of the fire, they were at lunch together at a Mexican restaurant on West Valencia Road near South Midvale Park Road.

Leslie's husband, Rick, got a call from his boss telling him a neighbor had called to say the Stroups' home was on fire.

Leslie, 36; Rick, 38; their son Rickie Stroup, 16; and daughter Katie Stroup, 13; rushed to the home on West Via San Teresa, near Valencia and South Cardinal Avenue.

"There were flames coming out of the windows of the children's rooms," Leslie Stroup said. "It was hard on my daughter, she saw her room go to nothing."

Katie's paternal grandmother died two years ago, Leslie said, "and everything she had from her grandmother was gone; jewelry, pictures.

"Things that belonged to her great-grandmother — like stuffed animals, antique dolls — are just gone," she said.

Three family pets perished in the flames: Leslie's two cats — Mack and Spooky — and her son's python, Scales.

"My son, he's just devastated over his pet snake; he's had him for about three years," Leslie said.

She said she and her husband had inadvertently let the insurance lapse a few years ago and because of the mobile home's age, about 25 years old, they were unable to get new insurance.

Now the family is struggling to get back on its feet.

"A relative is donating an RV so they will have a place to live," said Carol Schmidt, a longtime family friend who lives in Apache Junction.

"It'll be tight, but it's got a restroom in it, it's got running water," Leslie said.

One of their immediate problems, she said, is clearing the wreckage from the property, something they will have to do themselves.

"I have no clue, I really don't know how to do that," Leslie said.

She is hoping someone will donate the use of a large trash dumpster. Until they get the wreckage off the property, Schmidt said, "they can't even think of getting another mobile home."

Schmidt said residents of the mobile home park where she lives collected food, clothing and \$850 for the family.

The Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Red Cross put the family up at a motel for six nights, Leslie said, adding the Red Cross also gave them \$440 for clothing, a \$95 food voucher and refilled her prescription for heart medicine.

Leslie, a bus driver for the Tucson Unified School District, said co-workers have donated clothing for the family. Her husband is a delivery truck driver for a local welding supply company.

Bynum said when firefighters arrived at the 11 a.m. blaze the front half of the mobile home already was engulfed in flame.

2001

April 21, 2001, *Tucson Citizen*:

The fire gutted the front half of the home, he said. Heat and smoke damaged the rest. Firefighters estimated the damage at \$35,000.

Bynum said investigators determined the fire started in a room addition, but they have not been able to establish a cause.

Authorities with the four major firefighting agencies in the metro area, the Tucson and Rural/Metro fire departments and the Northwest and Drexel Heights fire districts, estimate there were 574 residential fires here last year, ranging from small kitchen fires to infernos that destroy whole homes.

As a result of those fires, authorities said, an estimated 228 families were left homeless.

Last year, the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Red Cross was called upon to help 179 families, including 366 individuals – mostly in the Tucson area – who had been burned out of their homes, said Rebecka Wendling, a Red Cross spokeswoman here.

The cost, she said, came to \$128,000 for such things as food vouchers, medication, clothing and temporary lodging.

The agency, Wendling said, relies entirely on donations from the public, she said.

Anyone wanting to donate to the Red Cross can get information on how to do so by calling 318-6740.

April 2002:

April 2002

Fire District Merger Celebrates First Anniversary

by Ron Ratkevich

The Drexel Heights Fire District Board of Directors, along with representatives of its Fire/Rescue staff, recently celebrated the Department's first year of their merger with Tucson Estates Fire District. It was an important anniversary for the Drexel Heights District. David Tornbom, Chairman of the fire department's Board of Directors expressed great pride in their

employees of the district." The Board presented an impressive list of more than 40 important milestones that were accomplished in 2001 and to date in 2002. Some of these include: the hiring of Douglas E. Chappell to fill the critical position of Chief, adopting a balanced budget for the 2002 year, "This is the first time in history that the Board and the



Fire Board Chairman, David Tornbom, extinguishes the candle on the birthday cake presented by Drexel Heights secretary, Beverly Hughett.

accomplishments, "The Drexel Heights Fire District has made great strides since the merger and during its first year as a new Fire District. The success of the District is due in large part to the cooperative effort of the Board, the excellent leadership of Chief Douglas E. Chappell, the administrative staff and most of all, due to the dedication and effort of the hard working battalion chiefs, captains, firefighters and the civilian

Taxpayer will know where their money went," said Chairman Tornbom. Included in this budget were, pay raises for the majority of the employees without the need to increase taxes, the purchase of a twelve lead

heart monitor, the much needed purchase of two new ambulance units, additional staff positions were filled, an overhaul of the Reserve Program and the development and adoption of a District Standard Operations Guidelines Manual.

"The morale of the entire staff has never been higher," added Tornbom, and with resounding applause, the other four members of the Fire District Board agreed.

2002

May 28, 2002, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/2002/05/28/78426-man-3-women-hurt-in-separate-rollovers/>

Man, 3 women hurt in separate rollovers

by La Monica Everett-Haynes on May 28, 2002, under City/State

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Recommend

Share

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Citizen Staff

Two cars are involved in one collision while a truck hits a light pole in the second accident.

By LA MONICA EVERETT-HAYNES

lehaynes@tucsoncitizen.com

A man and three women were hospitalized in two unrelated rollovers yesterday. Their injuries were not life-threatening.

The first wreck occurred at 10:53 a.m. at South Mark and West Valencia roads when a midsize car driving north on Mark Road went through a stop sign, hitting an eastbound Toyota sport utility vehicle, said Battalion Chief Lee Rau of the Drexel Heights Fire Department.

An 18-year-old woman was driving the SUV and a woman, whose age was unavailable, was driving the car, Rau said. The women's names were not available last night. Neither woman had passengers.

The force of the impact caused the Toyota to roll at least once, coming to rest on its passenger side, Rau said. He said the SUV driver got out before paramedics arrived and was taken to University Medical Center.

Firefighters had to cut the trapped woman out of her midsize car, Rau said. The woman was airlifted to Tucson Medical Center, he said.

Capt. Steven Medina said the car rolled at least once before landing on its wheels.

At 8:20 p.m., a man driving a red-and-white pickup east on West Congress Street, west of Interstate 10, lost control of his truck. The vehicle struck and knocked down a light pole and then rolled onto its top, said Lt. Jim Webb of the Tucson Police Department.

The driver said his power steering failed, causing him to strike the pole, Webb said. Both the man and his female passenger were taken to University Medical Center, Webb said.

Webb said investigators will continue trying to determine exactly how the wreck occurred. Power in the area was not affected.

2002

June 29, 2002:

Dear Fire Fighters,

Thank you for all the hard work + saving our towns. It must be hard to try to save most structures but you tried + that's all that counts. You brave Fire Fighters have saved many houses + the whole town of Pinetop-hooside + show how. All of the Fire Fighters leave around the world, I am so glad that we have such good + brave wonderful men. I really don't know how to thank you except to write a letter. My mom always had faith in you, we prayed all hours of the day. I really hope that you Fire Fighters are doing all right for saving a lot of structures, everybody is so thankful of your 24 hours a day + 7 days a week you put into the fire. I am 12 years old + my name is Ashley Pacheco, I have one sister + her name is Ariell Pacheco. I live with both of my parents, my dad works for WAL-MART, he has been on the emergency relief for the fire fighters + the Red Cross. They have donated + have been there for all the people

fighting this fire. My family is so happy that you Fire Fighters worked so hard to keep the fire away, but we stayed at our house hoping + that hoping really gave tons of faith to you wonderful men. I am just filling with tears for you, I just didn't know what to say but thank you.

Thank you very much!

Your very hero's!

Ashley
Pacheco

Ashley N. Pacheco

06-29-02

Birthday

August 4, 2002

Age 12

Hooside, AZ

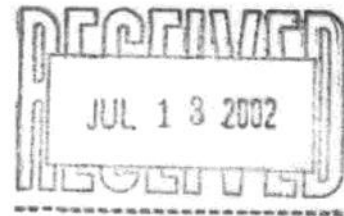
P.O. box

14 Park Lane

2002

July 10, 2002:

Marguerite A. Taylor Thompson
c/o 7000 W. Bopp Road
Tucson, AZ 85735
(520) 883-2548



Drexel Heights Fire Dept.
Ambulance Division
Tucson, Arizona

Wednesday, July 10, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this to let you know that my first ride in an ambulance was very unexpected, but was very pleasureable even though I was in much great pain. I found out later at St. Mary's Hospital that I had a badly ruptured appendix. It was quite and experience. I just wanted to let someone know that Stacey and Paul, your EMT's were most kind, and did a superb job in calming me down, and taking care of my needs on the way to the hospital. I am not one who is sick often, and this has not been the best time of my life, but do to the knowledge and quick thinking of my son, Ken Thompson, and your EMT's, I have survived extensive surgery and am well on the road to being a healthy person.

This was my first ride in an ambulance, and it will never be forgotten. Please be sure to thank them both for me and let them know I truly appreciated all they did for me, including trying not hit the potholes in the road way out here in the desert.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you who do such a great job whether taking care of an ill person, or taking care of all the emergencies which require your help. You guys and gals will always be super in my book.

Take care and God Bless all of you, a visiting Californian, who will never forget the early morning hours of June 28, 2002.

Sincerely,

Marguerite A. Taylor-Thompson

2002

August 8, 2002, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/2002/08/01/46612-swarm-of-bees-attacks-kills-woman-in-pearce/>

Swarm of bees attacks, kills woman in Pearce

by Adam Borowitz on Aug 01, 2002, under City/State

A Tucson-area mother and son also are hospitalized after bees attack them at their home.

By ADAM BOROWITZ

borowitz@tucsoncitizen.com

A woman was killed, and three other people – two of them from the Tucson area – were injured yesterday in two bee attacks in southern Arizona.

Cheryl McClain, 46, was killed when she was stung hundreds of times at her home in Pearce, about 60 miles east of Tucson, said Carol A. Capas, Cochise County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

McClain, who was allergic to bee stings, was stung while running to the aid of her boyfriend, Ted Richards, after she heard him screaming, Capas said.

McClain was swarmed by the bees and stung repeatedly after she found Richards, officials said. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Richards, 36, also was stung hundreds of times and was airlifted to Tucson Medical Center, where he was listed in stable condition yesterday.

In a separate incident, a man covered in bees attempted to save his mother from a swarm south of Tucson.

Alex Kane, 43, and his mother, Juanita Orta, 63, were at their home, in the 6900 block of West Kay Lynn Drive, when they were attacked about 4:45 p.m. by a swarm of bees from a nest in their attic, said Assistant Chief Gary Bynum of the **Drexel** Heights Fire Department.

By the time medical workers arrived, Kane was trying to rescue his mother while he was covered in bees.

Firefighters sprayed Orta and Kane with soapy water to remove the bees. Both complained of breathing problems after the incident, officials said.

Orta was taken to St. Mary's Hospital, where she was listed in stable condition yesterday, officials said. Kane was taken to Kino Community Hospital. Hospital officials could not release his condition.

August 16, 2002, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/2002/08/16/111354-man-killed-in-wrong-way-collision-on-ajo/>

Man killed in wrong-way collision on Ajo

by Eric Sagara on Aug 16, 2002, under City/State

8+1

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Recommend

Share

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Citizen Staff

By ERIC SAGARA

esagara@tucsoncitizen.com

A car traveling in a lane the wrong way for more than a mile collided with another vehicle last night on the West Side, killing one man, authorities said.

"We had an initial report of an eastbound vehicle traveling westbound," said state Department of Public Safety spokesman Scott Hyatt. "We got here, and this is what we found."

A Border Patrol agent saw a blue Chevrolet station wagon at 10:23 p.m. going the wrong way on Ajo Highway and called authorities, Hyatt said.

Shortly after that, the car collided head-on with a Dodge Ram pickup truck about a mile east of Kinney Road.

The driver of the station wagon, Ronnie E. Terry, 52, of Tucson, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Traffic on westbound Ajo was diverted for more than two hours while Drexel Heights Fire Department crews removed the body from the wreckage.

Eastbound Ajo was restricted to one lane.

The driver of the pickup, Curtis D. Wilkinson, 42, was alert when DPS officers arrived, Hyatt said. He was in surgery this morning at Tucson Medical Center with rib and ankle injuries.

"He was out of the truck, and people were helping him," Hyatt said.

It is not known if alcohol was a factor. Hyatt said excessive speed did not play a role. "It appears they were doing the speed limit, but you got to figure at 55 miles per hour, you get a 110-mile-per-hour crunch," Hyatt said.

2002

October 9, 2002:



October 9, 2003

Thank you for coming to our school. We learned a lot. Thank you for the fun stuff.

We got to do really special things. We would have never learned that way of getting out of the house. Using the hose was fun. We liked how Bear did his tricks. Is Bear learning English? He is really good with children. Dumping the water was fun. We learned about all the stuff in the fire truck. We learned how to put a fire out. Getting wet was fun!

Our plaque is so cool! It's in our office. And thank you for our prizes.

Your friends,
Ms. Williams' Second Graders

Selena
Larissa
Gabriel
Mercedes
Sean
Adrian Dakota
Joseph Joel Genesis
Joseph B Samantha Serjio
Jayme Raul
Peter Sabrina
Elmer Roman
Enrique
Ariadna
Serjio

October 9, 2002:

Line of Duty Deaths

Avra Valley Fire Department
Robert F. Millan, February 16, 1991

Glendale Fire Department
Lester Hillis, September 7, 1974

Kingman Fire Department
William L. Casson, July 5, 1973
Christopher G. Sanders, July 5, 1973
John O. Campbell, July 5, 1973
M.B. "Jimmy" Cox, July 5, 1973
Richard Lee Williams, July 5, 1973
Roger A. Hubka, July 5, 1973
Joseph M. Chambers, July 5, 1973
Arthur C. Stringer, July 5, 1973
Frank S. "Butch" Henry, July 5, 1973
Alan Hansen, July 5, 1973
Donald G. Webb, July 5, 1973

Mayer Fire Department
Calvin Morris, August 16, 1992

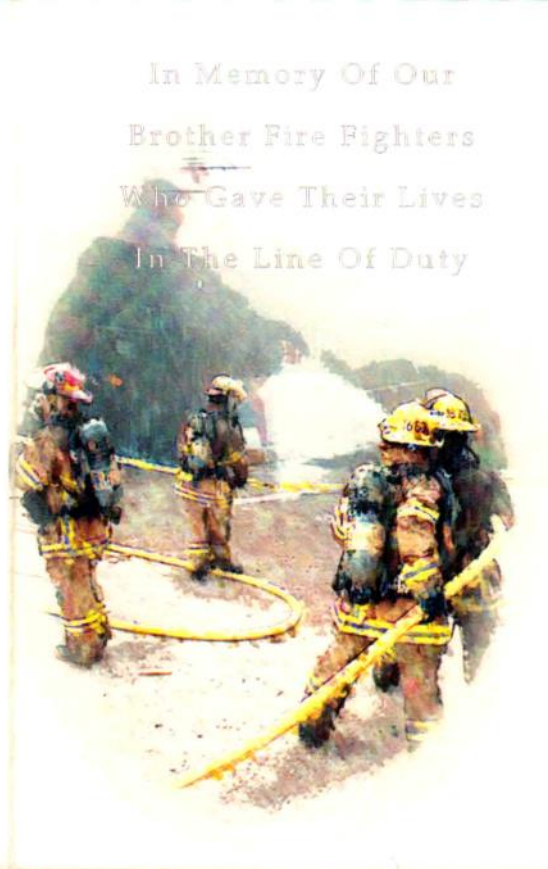
Mesa Fire Department
Jack Robert Stevens, June 30, 1986
Gary Robert Peters, September 29, 1987

Peoria Fire Department
Floyd Eugene Mason, April 24, 1977

Phoenix Fire Department
Bret Tarver, March 14, 2001
Timothy J. Hale, February 12, 1994
Ricky S. Pearce, November 15, 1984
Dale Lockett, August 5, 1979
Walter D. Kelson, March 12, 1977
Chauncy E. Ray, March 12, 1977
Randolf J. Potts, August 5, 1974
Ambrose Shea, December 10, 1929
J.D. Sullivan, December 9, 1929

Southwest Ambulance, Inc.
Michael Hendricks, June 24, 1992

Tempe Fire Department
Edward J. Gaicki, January 15, 1980



A Fireman's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God,
whenever flames may rage,
give me strength to save some life,
whatever be its age.
Help me embrace a little child
before it is too late,
or save an older person
from the horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert
and hear the weakest shout,
And quickly and effectively
to put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling
and to give the best in me,
to guard my every neighbor and
protect his property
And if according to my fate,
I am to lose my life,
please bless with Your protecting hand
my children and my wife.

**Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona
Memorial Sunday**

Fallen Fighter Memorial Sunday

Sunday, October 20th, 2002

Greenwood Memorial Park

9:30 Call to order and welcome,

Chris Madrea, President Professional Firefighters of Arizona

Presentation of the Colors by the Honor Guards of Phoenix,

Mesa & Glendale Fire Departments

Opening prayer, Father Ochoa, Peoria F.D. Chaplain

Reading of the Fallen Fire Fighter Poem, Jim Martinez

Duane Pell, Arizona State Fire Marshall

Janet Napolitano, Arizona Attorney General

Jane Hull, Governor

Signal 3-3-3 ceremony - Rick Apple, Mesa F.D.

Taps - Bill Scott, Phoenix F.D.

**Phoenix Fire Fighter Gordy Cunningham and Governor Hull lay
wreath at base of bell tower, while Mesa Pipe & Drum Corps plays**

"Amazing Grace"

Closing Prayer, Father Ochoa

Closing, Chris Madrea

Retrieval of the Colors/Recessional



2002

October 27, 2002:



Canyon Del Oro

High School

25 W. Calle Concordia * Tucson, Arizona 85737 * (520) 696-5560 * Fax (520) 696-5590

October 27, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

We write this letter to you in support of Jeremy Beatty speaking to you students about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Jeremy has been coming to the Driver Education classes at Canyon del Oro High School for 9 years now. Using his "off duty" time, Jeremy displays genuine concern for the students well being. His presentation is designed to affect the students on an emotional level, beyond the statistics and fact presented in most drinking and driving presentations. He uses appropriate humor through out his presentation and makes it enjoyable for the students to learn. The impact his presentation has on the students is evident through their intent listening to his message, as well as the fact that many leave the class with tears in their eyes. Jeremy does make a difference in student's lives.

We enjoy having Jeremy speak to our students and will continue to utilized him. We encourage you to consider having Jeremy present to your students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patrick Nugent".

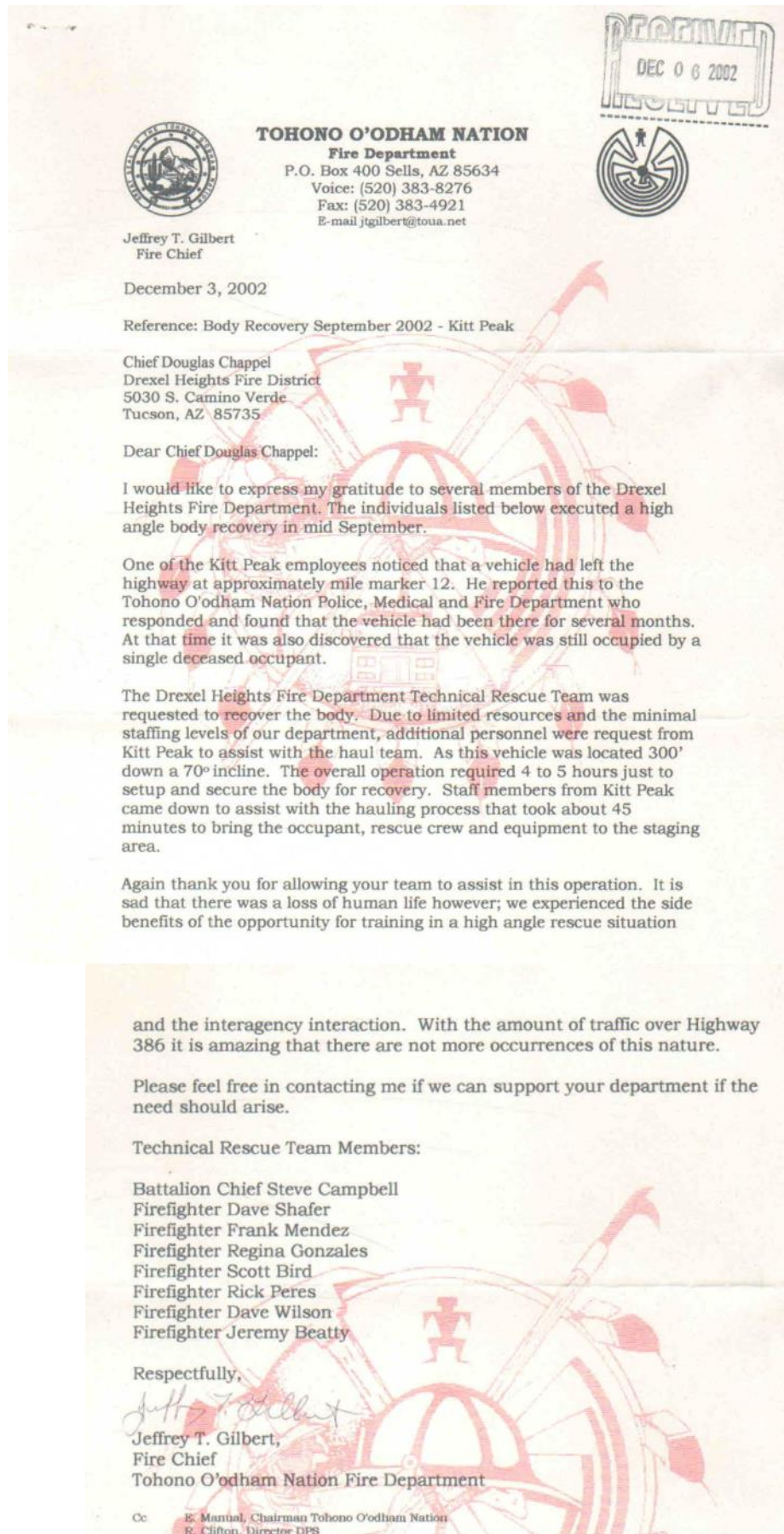
Patrick Nugent
Instructor

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott Linaker".

Scott Linaker
Instructor

2002

December 3, 2002:



2002

December 20, 2002, DHFD:

Certificate of Appreciation

Presented in gratitude to

FIRE STATION #1

For Outstanding Support of



United States Marine Corps Reserve



20 DECEMBER 2002

Date



**Seasons
Greetings
2002**

WISHING YOU A
SAFE & HAPPY
HOLIDAY
SOUTH TUCSON FIRE
CHIEF L. ANDERSON

Drexel Heights Fire Department

by Gary Lee Bynum, Assistant Chief



A New Fire Station and other exciting changes...

We have hired an architect for the design and construction of the new fire station on Kinney Road. The architectural group selected for this project is named the Breckenridge Group of Tucson, Arizona. Our staff has been working with the architects diligently to do the planning process to design the station. A group of our personnel toured other fire stations to see designs that functioned well for the users as well as designs that did not. They then met with the architects and discuss what will meet our needs and what the best options are for our fire station design. We have met several times to refine the program plan prior to development of the preliminary plans.

The design process is probably going to be the least time consuming portion of this project. The Architects should have some preliminary drawings for us within a month. When the preliminary plans have been approved then the final design phase will include the architects, engineers and other technical design professionals. Those final design plans will then be submitted to Pima County Development Services for review and permits. The next step in the process, once plans have been approved and permits are issued is putting the project out for bid. The bidding process only takes about 60 days and concludes with the Board awarding a contract to the successful bidder. The contractor will start construction as soon as possible.

It is estimated that construction will take about nine months, this will have us moving into the station in approximately January of 2005, unless any portion of the process is held up by any of the outside agency's involved in this process.

Following a request received from several homeowners in the Diablo Estates area off Valencia, staff has met with homeowners to discuss the process of annexation into the Fire District. The nearly 250 homes in the area currently are not within a Fire District because the original developer

was not required to do so during the development phase many years ago.

The Diablo Estates area is within the Drexel Heights Certificate of Necessity so we do provide paramedic service to those residents, but response to fire related emergencies is currently based on a fee for service if we have units available. The homeowners only other option currently is calling Rural Metro who may also respond on a fee for service basis, but their closest fire station is located at Benson Highway and Valencia.

The Fire District staff is preparing the necessary documents and records to assist the homeowners in the area affected to gain annexation. This annexation will be beneficial to the District in that it brings in developed land with established homes; this results in an immediate boost to the tax base. It is beneficial to the homeowners in that it gives them fire protection that will likely result in a lowering of the homeowner's insurance bill. The entire process will take several months, but everyone is hopeful that the effort of these homeowners will be successful and supported by all of the residents of Diablo Estates.

Speaking about Homeowners Insurance, we are currently being graded by the Insurance Service Organization or ISO. They are the agency that many insurance companies use to set the rates for homeowners insurance. Currently the Fire District is rated a Class 5 for areas within 5 miles of a Fire Station and 1000 feet of a Fire Hydrant. If residents are outside of those limits then the area is rated at a Class 9, primarily due to the lack of hydrants in the area.

ISO has not been in the Fire District to grade us since 1989. Since 1989, the Fire District has made numerous improvements in our operations, which affect the grading process. We have increased manpower, replaced some of our fire

continued on next page

Drexel Heights Fire District, *continued from previous page*

apparatus and equipment, nearly tripled the number of hydrants in the District, merged with the Tucson Estates Fire District and improved our Communications Center. It is our hope that this re-grading will result in an improved insurance rating. This should save many homeowners some money on their homeowners (fire) insurance. We should get the notification from ISO concerning the results of the re-grading process in about 120 days. We will bring that information to you as soon as we get those results.

One of the priorities established for the Fire District this year was the creation of a Public Education Specialist/Public Information Officer position. The District advertised the position and conducted testing to locate the best candidate for the job. The successful candidate is Ron Ballard. Mr. Ballard joined the Fire District team on February 24th. Mr. Ballard comes to us from the Desert Diamond II Casino where he had been serving as their safety director. Ron does have experience in the fire service from not only Drexel Heights but also Pascua Pueblo Fire Department.

Ron has been involved in public educational training for many years. In addition he has experience

as a Public Information Officer that he obtained while working for Pascua Fire as well as for Pima Fire Chiefs while working at Pascua Fire. Over the years the employees of the Fire District have worked very hard to build public education programs and the results of those programs are something everyone is proud of. With the creation of this position, the Fire District will now have a focus for these programs and a person responsible for getting the full message out about the great things happening in your Fire District.

The Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the third Friday of each month at Station 1 located at 5030 S. Camino Verde, Tucson. This month the Board meets on March 21, 2003 at 9:00 am at Station 1. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Board meetings are handicap assessable; with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.

Your Fire District Board Members are James Bertrand, Chair; Robert Bishman, Clerk; Laura Dailey, Ron Greil and Jayne Stepnoski. The Fire District offices are located at 5030 S. Camino Verde, Tucson, AZ 85735 and we can be contacted by telephone at (520) 883-4341. Visit our website at www.drexelfire.net.

Drexel Heights Fire Department

by Gary Lee Bynum, Assistant Chief



Passing of the pen...

This will be my last regular submission to the *Desert Times*. Effective this month we will have our new Public Information Officer/Public Education Specialist writing this article. The Drexel Heights Fire District has been growing, as many of you are aware. This has necessitated that we hire additional staff to meet the many needs of the District and its residents.

An internal survey several years ago identified the need for a person to handle public education and information. This has been handled over the years by many people, for most this task was in addition to several other jobs they were doing. The results were that at times these jobs were not done as well as they could be. As a result we have replaced the Fire Inspector position with the Public Education / Information Specialist.

I would like to introduce you to Ron Ballard, the person we have hired to fill that position. Ron successfully completed the testing process and was selected to fill the position. Ron comes to us with a host of experience that he will go into in his introduction of himself.

It has been a pleasure sharing the growth of this District with you over these many years. It is my hope that these little monthly get-togethers were as much fun for you to read as they were for me to write. With that I introduce you to Ron Ballard. Greetings;

I'd like to thank Chief Chappell and Assistant Chief Bynum for their confidence in my abilities to spearhead such an important position. Certainly it is an honor to have been selected as this Department's first full-time Public Information Officer/Public Education Specialist. This new office will greatly enhance our abilities to inform and educate the Drexel Heights community at large. Through the issuance of regular press releases regarding news-worthy community events, a more comprehensive and active fire prevention and public education program, as well as increased Department involvement in

community special functions and social activities, Drexel Heights will continue to grow and maintain its status as one of the top Fire Districts in the State.

It would be inappropriate indeed to begin my first *Desert Times* article without at least a brief introduction, so here goes. I'm originally from the great state of Nebraska, and yes, also a die-hard Cornhusker fan (Go Big Red)! After high school in Omaha, I enlisted in the Air Force where I was sent to Southeast Asia as a Flight Engineer. Once my enlistment was up, I went back to school on the GI Bill and completed undergraduate studies in Clinical Psychology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Following UNO, I enrolled at Creighton University and completed their two-year Paramedic program. While still enrolled at Creighton, I began my Fire Service career with the Boys Town Fire Department as one of their first two Paramedics. I then moved to Arizona in 1984 and worked with the Golder Ranch, Drexel Heights and the Pascua Pueblo Fire Departments, where I ended up as the Fire Chief from 1990 - 1995. Since '95 my education and career have been in the areas of safety, risk management and OSHA compliance, with a heavy emphasis on disaster planning/management. I am married with three great kids ages 13, 10 and 3. For relaxation I enjoy listening to jazz (of all eras and styles), particularly Miles Davis, Coleman Hawkins, Glenn Miller and Paul Hardcastle.

It's probably no small coincidence that I begin this program in the year 2003, as the seeds were planted nearly 50 years ago in 1954 for the formation of the Drexel Heights Community Association, Inc. Out of the generous donation of a 71/2-acre tract of land by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Jenks, the non-profit Community Association of Drexel Heights was born. Today, the Drexel Heights Fire District is approximately 90 square miles in size. It is home to more than 40,000 residents, a rapidly expanding commercial base, a small

continued on next page

Drexel Heights Fire District, *continued from previous page*

municipal airport, vast expanses of urban/wildland interface, beautiful mountain and desert recreational facilities and even some light industry.

Fueled by a common desire to protect their families and property from the ravages of fire, the Association's founding Board Members began the process in April 1954, of forming a Volunteer Fire Department. Through the collection of community fire protection subscriptions at \$10.00 per year or \$1.00 per month, the Association purchased its first piece of fire apparatus in July of 1954. It was a 1939 Ford flatbed truck affectionately known as "Mertyl", which cost a total of \$80.00. Board Members and community residents donated their collective skills, labor, time and monies, to reconfigure "Mertyl" into the DHVFD's first operational fire pumper.

As our Fire District approaches its Golden anniversary, most of the tragedies and triumphs which make up its first 50 years, are all but vague memories to even those Department members with between 20 and 30 years of service. Bits of memorabilia, scrapbook articles and a few old photos are all that remain with us today. Little pieces of history, standing in mute testimony to those community leaders who saw the need for a service, and then found the means to make it a reality.

The Officers, Firefighters and staff of the Drexel Heights Fire District would like to celebrate with the community, our shared long history in 2004. However, we can't handle an event of this magnitude alone. Historical research is currently being conducted and committees are forming here at the Fire Department, so that we can properly honor those who's hard work and foresight laid the foundation for what we are today. If you would like to volunteer (in any capacity) as a member of our 50th anniversary celebration team or, should you know of the existence of community historical documents (photos, news clippings, certificates, etc.), please contact me at 883-4341. All original materials shall remain your property, all we ask is for the opportunity to look over, and possibly make copies of what you have. We are also looking for corporate and commercial donations and sponsorships. Please give me a

call at your earliest convenience. I look forward to talking over old times with you.

Additionally, if you have need of fire/life safety education programs for your community associations, neighborhood groups, schools, business organizations, etc., please give me a call, again at 883-4341. We also are offering informational classes on Community Preparedness/Bio-Terrorism Awareness, presented through a Department of Justice grant, in cooperation with the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. All of our programs are offered at no charge, so give me a call for available scheduling.

The Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the third Friday of each month at 9:00 am, in the conference room of Station #1 located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meeting are handicap accessible and, with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.

Your Fire District Board is, Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Robert Bishman, Member Laura Dailey, Member Ron Greil and Member Jayne Stepnoski. Fire District offices are located at 5030 S. Camino Verde, Tucson, AZ 85735. Don't forget to visit our website at www.drexelfire.net.

Ron Ballard,
Public Information Officer

April 27, 2003, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rescue roulette

Can ambulance arrive in time? Depends on where you live

First of three parts

By Rhonda Bodfield
and Enric Volante

© ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Where you live can determine whether you live when it comes to ambulance service in Pima County.

How fast an ambulance arrives when you're in trouble is influenced by a patchwork quilt of service areas, little accountability and laws that discourage competition among ambulance operators.

People might expect a slower response when they opt for the rural lifestyle of Three Points west of Tucson, where, on seven out of 10 calls, ambulances take longer than the eight-minute gold standard suggested by American Heart Association research and a national firefighters group.

But how about densely populated Continental Ranch? Or the Palo Verde corridor with its industrial parks? Or the Tucson Mountain foothills, where Southern Arizona's largest resort is under construction?

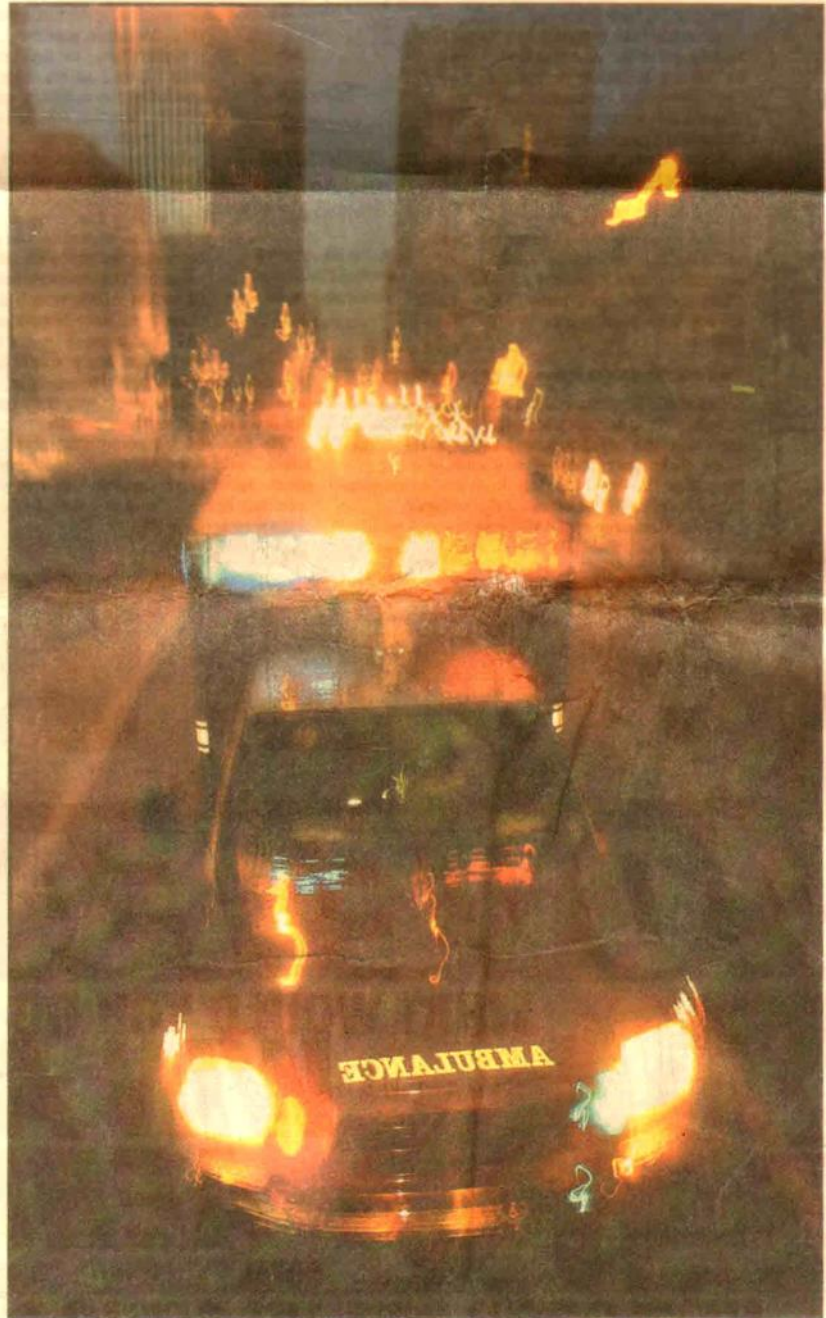
In these three areas, ambulances fail more than half the time to hit the eight-minute mark, the industry-accepted standard that can determine life or death in a serious medical case, according to an Arizona Daily Star review of nearly 100,000 ambulance calls over 18 months ending in December.

The response isn't much faster — missing the mark in four of 10 calls — for the wealthy Catalina Foothills; the tract-home subdivisions of the Southeast; or Green Valley, where most people are of prime heart-attack age.

Darlene Bradley knows the anguish of each passing minute. Her husband Wayne, 65, weakened and dehydrated from food poisoning, fell and blacked out one morning in February at their Green Valley home, gashing his head and leaving so much blood on the walls and bed sheets that it looked like a movie-scene stabbing.

The Bradleys live less than four minutes from where an ambulance is typically stationed, but none was available when she called. An ambulance finally arrived — 34 minutes later.

"To be told when you're worried to death and frightened out of your wits that all three ambulances are in Tucson and they have to unload before they can come back," Darlene Bradley said, "We



Photos by David Sanders

A Tucson Fire Department ambulance races down Stone Avenue. How quickly an ambulance gets to you in an emergency is influenced by a jumble of service areas and laws that discourage competition.



Interactive map

See how quickly ambulances respond from your neighborhood station. Plus, view links to documents and agencies cited in this series.
www.azstarnet.com/specialreports

SPECIAL REPORT Today: Where you live is key to whether you live.
Monday: The Rural/Metro debate. **Tuesday:** Big growth hurts response times.

April 27, 2003, *Arizona Daily Star*:

missing the mark proves difficult given the paucity of data.

Logs of each ambulance run used to be turned in monthly. Two years ago the state stopped requiring them altogether.

Now, it just gets a six-month summary of response times, once every three years. Livestock-feed distributors have to report more frequently than that.

Judi Crume, in charge of monitoring ambulance operators for the state, had no answer when asked whether response times are getting better or worse as cities grow in the nation's second-fastest-growing state.

Your chance of getting help in a life-threatening emergency is pretty good in the city of Tucson, where city firefighters who double as emergency medical personnel dashed to nearly 85 percent of calls within eight minutes. They're even quicker in cases of cardiac arrest, meeting the standard in 89 percent of calls.

But the Tucson Fire Department has set an ambitious goal — to meet the eight-minute standard in nine out of 10 calls. The city hit that mark in only one year, nearly a decade ago.

And the goal is increasingly elusive. In early 1999, the Tucson Fire Department was just 2 points below its goal. But since May 1999 until last year, the city's speed was slipping.

Still, the state has never required a corrective plan.

Joe Gulotta, a battalion chief in charge of emergency medical services, said the city deserves credit for setting the bar high.

"We had an opportunity to lower that standard, but we chose not to," Gulotta said. "It's more important to provide the service than to say we meet the goal on paper."

To avoid losing more ground, the city three years ago started adding paramedics to its firetrucks. About one-third of trucks have medics now, but it will take years to finish the job.

"Really a disaster"

Compare the city's response times to those of Rural/Metro, the for-profit company that is the exclusive provider of ambulance service for most county areas outside the city of Tucson and for calls within city limits deemed not life-threatening.

Rural/Metro aims to hit the eight-minute mark 70 percent of the time within the city — and a year ago achieved that goal only 55 percent of the time.

Outside the city, in unincorporated areas such as Green Valley, Rural/Metro's requirements are lower still: Hit a mark of 10 minutes on 70 percent of calls.

"That is really a disaster," said retired cardiologist Zuli Steremberg of Green Valley. "Especially because this is a really elderly population. If somebody is in cardiac arrest and you don't get oxygen to the brain in five minutes, those people are going to be brain-dead."

Standards accepted by the state are too low to protect public health, Steremberg said, and shouldn't be relaxed for heavily

populated areas just because they're outside the limits of a city. Most of the company's runs are in the built-up Foothills areas or in Green Valley.

Rural/Metro emergency workers got to the scene roughly 80 percent of the time within 10 minutes in Green Valley — beating their state requirement, according to a Star analysis of nearly 2,000 runs in the Green Valley ZIP code over six months. But they got to calls within the eight-minute ideal only about 64 percent of the time.

Rural/Metro spokesman George Good said that unlike the city, his agency has to cover a broader area, running to places as far apart as Mount Lemmon and Arivaca. He said people who live on the periphery don't expect urban levels of service, and that the company consistently exceeds minimum standards.

Good said the flaw in the state's CON system is that while it measures the response time of ambulances, it doesn't consider that all but one of the company's fire engines are staffed with paramedics who arrive first and who can treat victims — even though they can't take them to the hospital. "I'm very confident in our ability to provide the very highest service to county areas," Good said.

The company declined a Star request for the electronic database of all calls, which the state requires it to keep but not submit.

What Rural/Metro did submit fell short of the state requirement: It included information from only the highest-level calls, in which sirens and lights were used, and not from calls in which drivers traveled as fast as they could within traffic rules.

The state never asked for the rest of the data.

This lack of enforcement is consistent with the findings of a little-noticed 1999 audit by the state Auditor General's Office, which found that Arizona's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services failed to systematically oversee response times.

The audit also had tough

April 27, 2003, *Arizona Daily Star*:

words for the system structure, noting that it restricts competition and might cost local governments in service and money.

The audit recommended a complete overhaul. Department staff responded that electronic reporting was on the way, but instead, reduced reporting altogether to alleviate the paperwork burden. Division manager Edward Armijo said he doesn't consider that a weakening of oversight. "When we have to do an analysis, we would just ask for the information," he said.

As for the system overhaul, department administrators say it's the Legislature's job to write the law. They just follow it.

The private company American Medical Response ran up against the restrictions of Arizona's system in 1999.

Its consultants went by hand through hundreds of pages of paper logs to build a database showing that Rural/Metro fell short of its response goals in the Tanque Verde, Catalina Foothills, Sabino Canyon and Palo Verde areas. But an administrative law judge said Rural/Metro met the goal for its overall service in Massachusetts-sized Pima County, calling it unfair to "Balkanize" the region to show trouble spots.

Ted Van Horne, an Oro Valley

resident who served as a paid consultant to American Medical Response, said the public loses in a system like Arizona's.

"There is no way anyone can analyze 911 records in any form using public records anymore," said Van Horne, who came back later with a proposal of his own as Arizona Ambulance and lost again. He is appealing in Superior Court.

"You'd think that public safety officials, after 9/11, would subscribe to the theory that more providers would give better service, but so far that isn't happening," he said.

Emergency medical service is big business.

Rural/Metro took in \$103 million nationwide on medical transports last quarter — seven times what it made on fire service. And the Tucson Fire Department is now more like an ambulance service, with about 86 percent of its calls last year for medical emergencies, not fires.

The city first tried to get into the ambulance business in the mid-1980s but was turned down after private companies argued they would be hurt. Tucson kept transporting patients and got hit with a cease-and-desist order in 1987.

Finally, when the city agreed

to transport only the most serious cases, leaving lower-level calls to private providers, the state gave its blessing in 1992.

Convincing the state

A similar war broke out in Green Valley, where the fire district asked the state for a license to run ambulances on turf held by Rural/Metro.

The district spent more than \$160,000 in legal costs trying to convince the state that its firefighters can respond faster and without raising taxes. In the past year, district firefighters arrived at emergencies an average of four minutes earlier than Rural/Metro and found 133 cases where patients waited longer than 15 minutes for the private company.

The district promised to get to most calls within eight minutes and all calls within 15. Rural/Metro's standards are based on a 10-minute response with 30 minutes at the top end.

Rural/Metro attorneys warned that losing its monopoly could cost the company almost \$450,000 a year — money it would make up in higher rates for other customers in Pima County.

The company also said that while it hits eight minutes on the majority of calls in the area, there's little need to do so. The reason: Public firefighters arrive within that time and can give aid before the private ambulance shows up for transport.

But company executive Roy Ryals argued the opposite point in 1995, when, representing a Rural/Metro competitor in a state hearing, he said emergency medical personnel should meet the standard as well as any other first responder because it improves patient care. He noted as an example that some patients need several procedures done at once, such as clearing airways, assessing cardiac rhythms and starting intravenous drips.

"You improve the chances of that patient's positive outcome by these critical procedures being performed simultaneously and more rapidly," Ryals testified.

April 27, 2003, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Golder Ranch Chief Fink agrees: "You're not going to stabilize that gunshot wound in the field. The quicker you can get a person to a facility that can do surgical intervention, the greater chance they have of surviving."

But Rural/Metro attorneys said in court papers that the state shouldn't approve new operators "simply to marginally improve a response time."

Rather, they said, the goal should be the smallest number of providers to meet the public need. Whether a community has local control is irrelevant under the law.

Deputy Health Director Danny Valenzuela concluded the district was so financially sound that it was the only one in the state that didn't raise taxes for five years. He also said the competition wouldn't hurt Rural/Metro much. But he rejected Green Valley's application Friday, saying firefighters did not prove Rural/Metro's performance was substandard. The district is considering an appeal.

Fighting the status quo

Trying to reform a system that prizes the status quo has proved to be difficult — even for a proven reformer.

Stephen Hise helped upgrade Missouri's emergency medical service system in the mid-1990s to make it more competitive and open.

But coming to Arizona to lead the Emergency Medical Services Bureau in 1998, he hit a wall.

"One of the issues you have here is incumbency," Hise said. "You have a group of stakeholders who want to keep the system the way it is. ... People in the incumbency here have a tremendous sense of ownership and authorship."

Hise said ambulance company officials told state lawmakers that the system worked fine. State employees, on the other hand, couldn't get the same access to lawmakers.

Hise, now a program adviser with the National Association of State EMS Directors, said Arizona should at least require full reporting from providers to measure service quality. About half the states require this.

Then, Hise said, Arizona leaders could debate reforms.

One option is letting local governments decide who they deal with, as is done in Wisconsin, Colorado and California.

Another is wide-open competition, as in Texas. That state sets minimum standards that all operators must meet and lets the market take care of the rest.

It can get unwieldy. Metropolitan Houston has 151 private operators. But usually it works well, said Texas EMS Director Jim Arnold.

"If you've got a certain number of people in a community, only so many want your services," Arnold said. "If there's too many providers in there, someone's going to starve to death."

Learning something from other states would suit the Myerses of Green Valley.

Andrew Myers, 84, had already been through three heart attacks and a minor stroke when his cardiologist told him in early February that his heart was weak. Two days later, when the retired aerospace manager became sick and disoriented, his wife, Jacqueline, feared another attack and dialed 911.

Green Valley firefighters arrived quickly, but the couple waited another 30 minutes for a Rural/Metro ambulance to take Myers to Tucson Heart Hospital. It turned out to be a case of dehydration, but the ordeal leaves a lasting impression.

"If I ever move away — which I might soon — it would be because of the lack of health care here," Jacqueline Myers said. "So I think that makes it doubly important that the ambulance be able to get here and get you where you need to go."

► *Tomorrow: Challenging Rural/Metro's hold.*

► *Contact reporter Rhonda Bodfield at 573-4240 or rhondab@azstarnet.com and reporter Enric Volante at 573-4129 or volante@azstarnet.com.*

April 27, 2003, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rescue roulette



Government oversight

Slower at the edges

Darker colors mean longer response times on this map, which covers ambulance service for most of the Tucson area. Tucson Fire Department runs are shown in brown shades and Northwest Fire District runs are in blue-gray shades. The Arizona Daily Star mapped data obtained under the Arizona Public Records law from nearly 60,000 ambulance runs from mid-2001 through last year.

Legend

How often ambulances took longer than eight minutes from dispatch to arrival at emergency scenes

● Fire stations

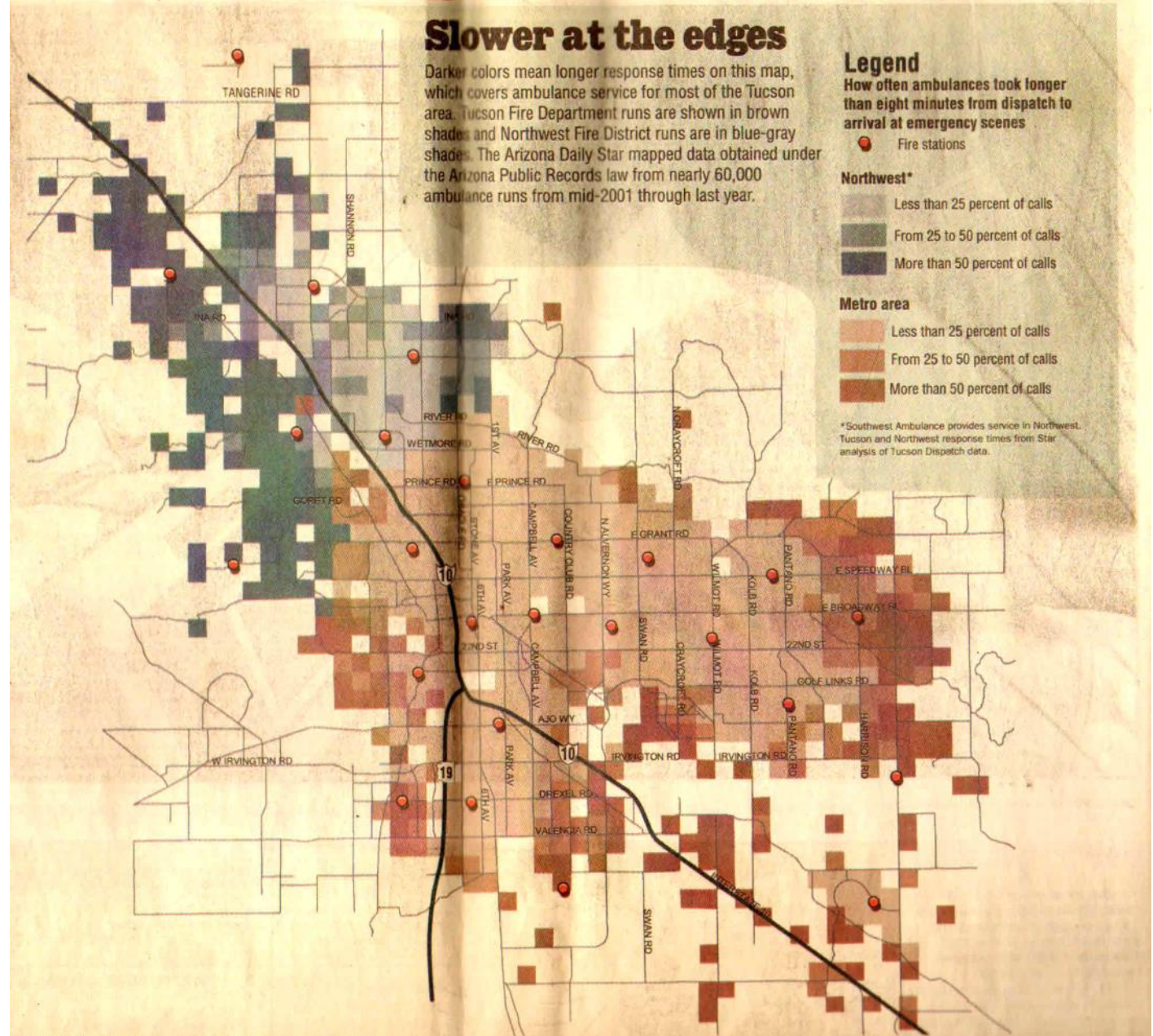
Northwest*

- Less than 25 percent of calls
- From 25 to 50 percent of calls
- More than 50 percent of calls

Metro area

- Less than 25 percent of calls
- From 25 to 50 percent of calls
- More than 50 percent of calls

*Southwest Ambulance provides service in Northwest. Tucson and Northwest response times from Star analysis of Tucson Dispatch data.



Map by Guillermo Munro, research by Enric Volante, Rhonda Bodfield/Ar

April 27, 2003, Arizona Daily Star:

NewsTALK

► *How important is it that ambulance services provide the fastest service possible?*

► *Who can do a better job providing ambulance service — the public or private sector?*

► *Have you had experience with ambulance service, good or bad, that you could share?*

Share your thoughts on NewsTalk; a sample will be selected to offer a range of opinions. They will appear Wednesday.

E-mail: newsq@azstarnet.com. Limited to four sentences.

Phone messages: 434-4094. Spell your name and leave a phone number for verification. Responses become Star property.

AMBULANCE

Where you live
can determine
whether you live

Continued from Page A1

were just very fortunate it wasn't something that could have killed him."

Overall, paramedics who were dispatched to more than 26,000 local emergencies involving heart or breathing problems couldn't meet the eight-minute standard in two out of 10 calls. Hundreds of patients waited longer than 15 minutes.

Here's what else the Star's investigation found:

► **Slipping standards.** Some states set and enforce an optimum response target, but not Arizona, where ambulance service providers essentially set their own goals then relax them if they miss. Tucson Fire sets high standards, and gets to emergencies rapidly. But when the Drexel Heights Fire District reached only 37 percent of its calls in five minutes — far short of its 85 percent goal — the state encouraged it to ease off. The district's new standard: 80 percent of calls within 10 minutes.

► **Favoring monopolies.** Any-

one who wants to provide ambulance service in areas already served by private contractors must obtain a coveted "certificate of need" or CON from the state. But it means an uphill march in a system geared to protect monopolies. A CON bid by the Green Valley Fire District was shot down Friday — even though the district showed it can beat private Rural/Metro Corp. to most calls by four minutes.

► **Audit ignored.** Four years ago, a state audit found that only six other states restrict competition the way Arizona does, preventing local governments from finding service that might be better, faster and more affordable. Lawmakers have largely ignored the findings.

► **Secret information.** If you want to know how fast an ambulance can get to you, you're out of luck. State regulators stopped asking providers to turn in logs and seldom audit the summaries that Arizona now settles for. Private contractors, which provide most service in the Catalina Foothills and in urban areas outside the Tucson city limits, don't have to respond to public requests for data.

In Arizona, ambulance and fire service are provided by a private company or by a department that's publicly operated, either through a municipality like Tucson or by a taxing district set up just for this purpose. In some of these municipalities and districts, the service is split — public fire department, private ambulance service.

Wherever there's a public fire department, though — charged with the overall safety of residents — its crews shoot to a scene immediately in their trucks to offer aid, whether they run their own ambulance systems or not.

The fastest ambulance response times in the Tucson area are in the Golder Ranch Fire District, which runs its own



David Sanders / Staff

Darlene and Wayne Bradley of Green Valley waited 34 minutes for an ambulance after he collapsed and injured himself.

public system. Golder Ranch even beats the neighboring Northwest Fire District and its private ambulance operator on price — a main selling point for the private operators.

The success of Golder Ranch comes from planning: The district began expanding from its base near the community of Catalina in the 1980s, before new subdivisions started going up toward Tucson and before private companies saw a chance to make money there. Now, Golder Ranch competes for new areas with Rural/Metro. The two are in court over who serves the roughly 900 homes in Copper Creek, an Oro Valley development.

Golder Chief John Fink said he sympathizes with fire districts that have little control over the quality of private service in their area.

The state's certificate of need

system "basically protects those that have current CONs," said Fink, whose department hits the eight-minute gold standard on nearly nine in 10 ambulance calls. "It makes it very expensive and very time-consuming to either get one or to do battle with your CON holder to make them do anything but the basic minimum requirements."

Cheaper, faster, not enough

Regulators carve up Arizona for ambulance providers in much the way they do with utility companies, under the premise that having a few operators gives each a better chance to survive.

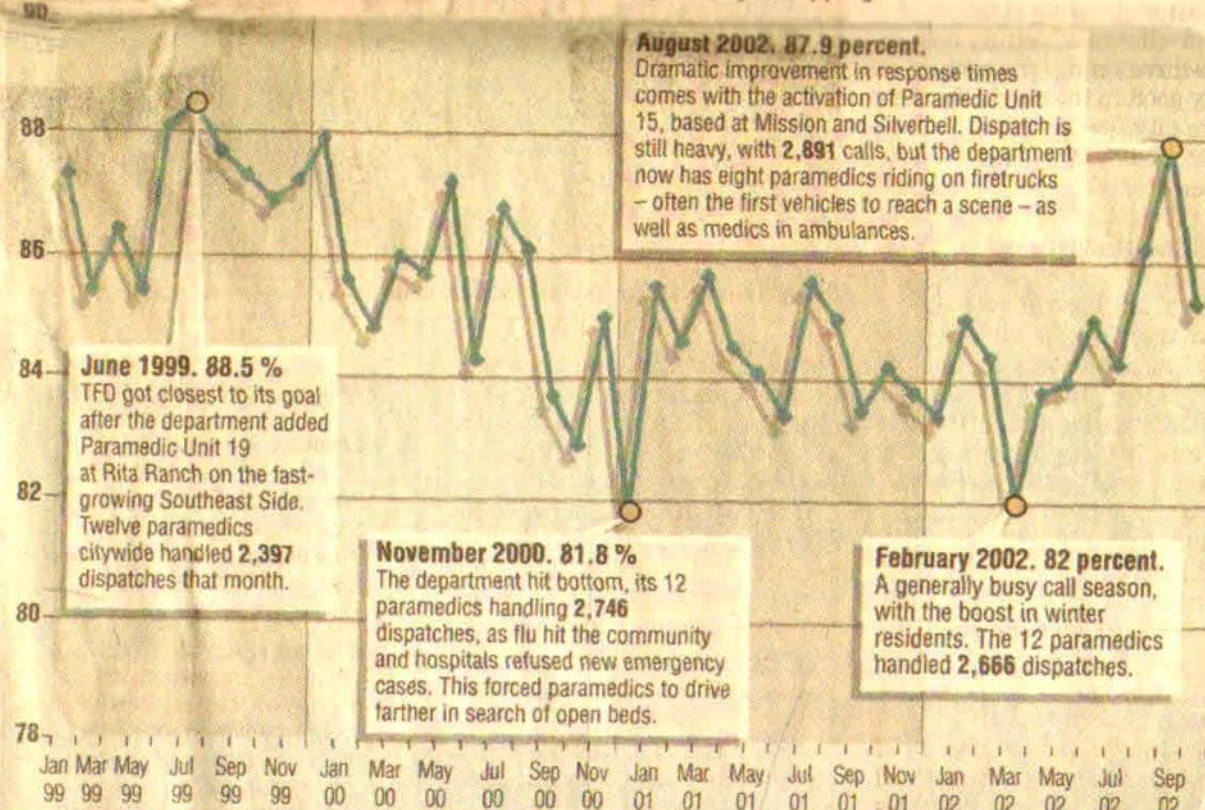
But with that come all the problems of monopolies.

It's not enough for challengers to show they can do the job cheaper or faster. As long as an existing provider meets often-

April 27, 2003, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tucson Fire: Struggling to meet goal

The Tucson Fire Department has set one of the most ambitious ambulance response times in the state: Reach emergency scenes within the eight-minute gold standard on nine out of 10 runs. This chart, reflecting 3 1/2 years of data, shows the response time generally is slipping.



Guillermo Munro / Staff

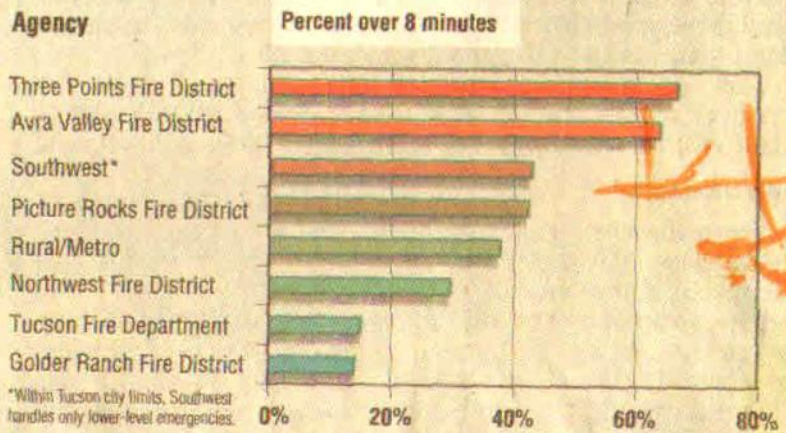
minimal requirements, state officials rarely let others into the game. Of the estimated 10 applications for a certificate of need during the past decade, only four have been approved, and those were in rural districts.

The fate of would-be ambulance operators rests with just one person, the state health department director, who is appointed by the governor. The post is held by Cathy Eden, formerly a Rural/Metro vice president and state lawmaker, although she hands decisions to her deputies in cases involving her former employer.

What's more, trying to demonstrate that a provider is

Ambulance response times

Here's how often ambulance services took longer than eight minutes to reach an emergency scene.



Source: Star analysis of dispatch data from city of Tucson and Arizona Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Continued on next page

April 27, 2003, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Investigative team's software sorted th

To learn about the responsiveness of Pima County's emergency medical services, the *Star* obtained an electronic database of fire and ambulance emergency calls dispatched by the city of Tucson.

The city serves as dispatcher for the county's largest ambulance operator, the Tucson Fire Department, and for several other local fire districts and private ambulance operators. The data, released under the Arizona Public Records Law, covered the period from July

2001 through December 2002 and included 270,968 records.

More than 92,400 were ambulance calls.

The *Star* used Access software to sort out calls in which an ambulance was diverted to another scene and calls with imprecise arrival times. This reduced the number to 89,818 calls.

Then we tabulated how long it took from the time an ambulance was dispatched to the time its crew reported arriving at the scene.

For those calls not dis-

patched by the city of Tucson, reporters obtained paper logs from the state Health Department of more than 7,500 ambulance runs by Rural/Metro Corp., the county's largest ambulance operator outside the city of Tucson. Addresses, dates and times from these



Rhonda Bodfield

rough thousands of ambulance calls



Enric Volante

runs were typed into an Excel spreadsheet.

Separate maps were created from the two sets of data, the one appearing here and one that will

appear with tomorrow's story on Rural/Metro.

For today's map, Arcview software was used to demon-

strate the range of response times by quarter-mile section of the city and the Northwest Fire District. These quarter-mile sections were used because the city withheld specific street addresses from the *Star*, citing privacy exemptions.

Tomorrow's map is based upon street addresses, which were provided by the state Health Department for the Rural/Metro calls.

This series was written by the *Star* investigative team of Rhon-

da Bodfield and Enric Volante.

Among their previous collaborations was "The Business of Influence: How Lobbyists Steer Arizona's Course," recipient of the 2001 Freedom of Information Award from the Phoenix chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Bodfield has covered politics and government since joining the *Star* in 1997. Volante has worked at the *Star* since 1981 and is the newspaper's computer-assisted reporting specialist.

April 27, 2003, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rescue roulette Government oversight



Tucson Fire Department paramedics check the heart rate of Joseph Corbett, 59, after being called to his apartment after he fell. TFD has set a high standard for response times but is finding the goal elusive.

Photos by David Sanders / Staff



Dawna Kingsley leads paramedics to her grandfather at his apartment at Stone and Glenn.

Why minutes matter

- **1 minute:** With each passing minute without treatment, a cardiac-arrest victim's chance of survival drops by 7 to 10 percent. More than 650,000 people die of heart attacks in the United States each year.
- **4 minutes:** Brain death starts to occur after someone experiences cardiac arrest. When CPR is initiated within four minutes, the survival rate is 43 percent. When initiated within four to eight minutes, the survival rate is 10 percent.
- **5 minutes:** About 11 percent of cardiac arrest victims would survive with treatment. Researchers found survival rates as low as 1 to 2 percent in rural areas and large metropolitan areas with heavy traffic congestion and longer response times.
- **7 to 10 minutes:** Cardiac arrest can be reversed in most victims if it is treated with immediate CPR and an electric shock to the heart.
- **10 minutes:** Few resuscitation attempts succeed after 10 minutes have elapsed. It's estimated that more than 95 percent of cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital.
- **The toll:** More than 350,000 die before reaching the hospital.

Sources: American Heart Association, City of Phoenix Fire Department, University of Glasgow research published in the *British Medical Journal*.

April 29, 30, 2003:

Neighboring Firefighters train at D-M

By Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda

355th Wing Public Affairs

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base 355th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department hosted a live fire training exercise for 36 fire-fighters from here, the Tucson Airport Authority and the Drexel Heights Fire Departments April 29 and 30.

"The benefit of this exercise is that it provides a live fire that simulates an aircraft accident and helps to sharpen our skills in fighting aircraft fires," said Chief Joe Ornelas, TAA Fire Department Chief.

As partners in the local community and in an effort to continue to be good stewards of taxpayers' money, D-M continues to share available resources. Live-fire training not only helps in the preparedness and readiness of D-M members, but also in that of local Firefighters. This was the fifth year firefighters from TAA have trained at D-M, but it was a first-time experience for Drexel Heights Firefighters.

"Drexel Heights and TAA have an inter-governmental agreement for crash-fire rescue services at Ryan Airfield. Although owned and operated by TAA, Ryan Field is within the Drexel Heights Fire District," said Ron Ballard, Drexel Heights Fire District Public Information Officer. "Since

April 29, 30, 2003:

TAA has no permanently stationed crash-fire rescue resources at Ryan Airfield, an IGA was established for Drexel Heights to provide such services.

"Live-fire training is not only an annual Federal Aviation Administration requirement for the Fire Departments, but was absolutely essential for Drexel Heights in that the majority of our fire suppression training and capabilities are aimed at structural and wildland firefighting. Only through this type of hands-on exercise can we gain the necessary experience and confidence to adequately mitigate such an emergency."

The ability to train at D-M also offers other advantages. "We have the only live-fire training facility in Southern Arizona," said Chief Randy Schryer, 355th CES Fire Protection Chief.

"In past years, the TAA Fire Department had to travel to New Mexico or Yuma for live-fire drills. The cost savings of training locally was a huge benefit," said Ballard. "The cost to operate a large crash-fire rescue truck or Class-A pumper is truly staggering. Add the cost of paying firefighters for out-of-town training, their per diem and travel expenses and a two-day live burn training exercise has had a significant impact on the Department's budget."

"In addition to saving travel costs, we are at a disadvantage training at other locations because at the New Mexico or other training academies we use their equipment, which may be set up differently or may not be the same as what we use here. Training at D-M gives us the opportunity to train on the equipment we will use during an actual emergency," said Ornelas. "Which helps make training more effective and beneficial."

We have assisted local departments for many years and anticipate this practice to continue for years to come, said Schryer.

"We sincerely wish to thank everyone at D-M for allowing Drexel Heights the opportunity to come out and play," said Ballard. "By working and interacting closely with our TAA counterparts, we can share the collective sum of our experiences with the rest of our Department."

"TAA truly appreciates all the support and efforts Davis-Monthan has provided to the aviation industry in Tucson and particularly to the Tucson International Airport," said Ornelas "Randy and the entire D-M Fire Department have done an outstanding job in helping us get our job done and our mission accomplished, they are truly professional."

Drexel Heights Fire Department

by Ron Ballard, Public Information Officer



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the different community organizations who invited Fire Marshal Dave Stone and myself, to give briefings on disaster preparedness and bio-terrorism last month. This particular community outreach program came about through a U.S. Department of Justice grant, administered by the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Since we began offering these free briefings last year, requests by various community organizations to be included has been steadily increasing. If your organization feels this information would be beneficial, please give me a call at 883-4341 for availability and scheduling.

As many of you already are aware, Drexel Heights Fire District's annual budget is derived from secondary property taxes. The only other sources of revenue generation we have are from second-party ambulance transport billing and seasonal wildland fire suppression, on State and Federal lands. Believe me though, neither of these programs could maintain even a small portion of our overall operational costs. In order for us to stay on the cutting edge of the latest EMS and Fire Service technology, we continue to aggressively pursue all applicable public safety grants. Here's a cross-section of the most recent grants we have applied for, and what we expect to gain from them.

FEMA FIRES Grant: Our application for this grant was submitted the week of April 7th. If approved, we will begin a process of replacing both our structural and wildland firefighting protective clothing. The District will also be able to purchase exercise equipment for Station #4 in Tucson Estates, as well as specialized equipment for our Technical Rescue Team.

GOHS Grant: The Governor's Office on Highway Safety has awarded Drexel Heights \$9,000 for the purchase of extrication equipment (Jaws of Life). We are currently awaiting the release of funds from Washington, D.C.

Pima County CDBG: A Community Development Block

Grant in the amount of \$30,000 has been awarded to Drexel Heights for the installation of 7 new fire hydrants, as well as the purchase of about 500 reflective address placards for homes in areas not visibly identified for emergency services.

Two other CDBG's requests for additional fire hydrants and a Family Safety Program have been applied for however, these grants will not be awarded until late summer 2003.

Department of Justice Terrorism/Disaster Preparedness Grant: We are to receive \$45,000 for the purchase of disaster preparedness equipment. This is an on-going program from which we are entitled to receive up to \$1.2 million in future years. Additionally, we received a \$25,000 DOJ grant for community bio-terrorism/disaster preparedness education.

This of course is not a comprehensive listing of every grant applied for by our administration however, it should give you a better sense of how we continue to be fiscally creative in order to maintain the same level of service excellence as our metropolitan counterparts throughout the country.

As for other Fire District news, here's what's going on....

Most everyone is aware by now that, Fire Station #4 in Tucson Estates will be the first of our stations replaced. A preliminary site and building layout plan has already been developed and, the architects indicate that they are still on-target to begin submitting plans to the County. These are only the first steps in a long process, however this project continues to move forward on schedule.

The field-testing and evaluation process for the replacement of our SCBA's (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) has been completed. The District will begin purchasing new units very shortly. The SCBA is one of a Firefighter's most valuable pieces of personal protective equipment. It provides the Firefighter with clean, breathable air in environments that would otherwise cause serious respiratory injury or

continued on next page

Drexel Heights Fire Department, continued from previous page

A few statistics I thought you might be interested in....

	March 2003	This Year To Date	Last Year To Date
Fire Related Responses	122	336	351
EMS Related Responses	459	1,296	820
Total Responses	581	1,362	1,171

death. Most of the SCBA's currently used by our personnel are over 10 years old, some are over 15.

We continue to have different manufacturers provide us with demonstrations and information on Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems. With a computer monitor mounted in all of the District's vehicles, a CAD system will enable our Dispatchers to instantly send incident information directly to responding units. Information such as address and routing, hazardous situations at the scene, closest hydrants, vital medical information and so on. We expect to begin proposal phase of this project before May 1st.

Gain Communications completed the installation of equipment and initiated use of Drexel Heights' antenna for wireless communication in mid-March. This is yet another revenue generating program to help us make ends meet.

The District has completed the testing process on all potential Reserve Firefighters and, has begun the background checks on the 16 successful candidates. Once the results are received, those still qualifying will be scheduled for pre-employment medical exams prior to final hiring. We hope to have background checks and pre-employment medical exams completed before the end of April.

With the uncertainties of Kino Community Hospital's future, Drexel Heights has decided to transfer our Base Hospital

The telephone system at our Headquarters (5030 S. Camino Verde) underwent some up-grading recently. The new system includes voice mail for all Administrative personnel, as well as a personnel office extension directory, and after hours automated attendant. Our main number has not changed though, you can still call 883-4341 and talk directly to the Administration's secretary.

Everyone here is getting geared up for our annual Awards Banquet May 10th. This year's theme will be a Hawaiian luau at the Tucson Estates Clubhouse. Catering for the event will be provided by the Desert Diamond Casino. I'll let you know in my next installment, who is awarded what.

The Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the third Friday of each month at Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde, Tucson. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room and the public is encouraged to attend. Board meetings are handicap accessible; with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.

Your Fire District Board Members are James Bertrand, Chair; Robert Bishman, Clerk; Laura Daily; Ron Greil and Jayne Stepnoski. The Fire District offices are located at 5030 S. Camino Verde, Tucson, AZ. 85735, and we can be reached at (520) 883-4341. Don't forget to visit our website at www.drexelfire.net.

2003

May 19, 2003, DHFD:

*Maxwell Middle School
2802 W. Anklam Road
Tucson, Az. 85745
225-2000*

May 19, 2003

*Drexel Heights
Tucson, Az.*

Dear Ron & Maria,

Our students at Maxwell Middle School were privileged to have you participate in our Career Day.

Thank you for sharing your careers and experiences. Students need to hear from other adults that life is an ongoing process. Sharing that process using your personal experiences helps make students aware that throughout their lives they will need to develop their skills, abilities, and talents. You have helped plant a seed by encouraging the students to discover and develop their skills, abilities, and talents so that they may have a fulfilled life. It's inspiring to let students see and hear how excited and fulfilled life can be when you become what you have always dreamed of.

Students need positive role models, so we thank you and encourage you to continue to take part in the educational system. We must continue to collaborate to spark an interest in decisions and choices our students are beginning to make regarding their future.

Again, mil gracias, Maxwell Middle School applauds you for your time and dedication to students.

Committed to student excellence,

*Veronica Duran
Counselor*

*Wilda Davis
Counselor*

*Steve Kunz
Counselor*

Drexel Heights Fire Department

by Gary Bynum, Assistant Chief



Bond Project Updates

Since the voters approved the bond last September we have been working very hard to get those projects, which the voters approved, off of the drawing board and into reality. The first project being the new fire station on Kinney Road has probably been the most time consuming for Fire District staff.

This project started with the hiring of an architect. We had several firms apply to us for the privilege of designing the fire station. The successful bidder was the Breckenridge Group, a local firm with a lot of experience in designing fire stations. Their first idea was to have the design committee tour several new fire stations in the greater Tucson community and see what the committee liked and did not like. Their company had designed most of these stations. This being accomplished moved us into the program development phase.

The program development phase is where the square footage is determined by what will be going on in the facility, what areas will be used for what. This phase took about 2 months to develop. The square footage for this fire station will be about 6700 square feet. That may seem large to many folks out there but remember our fire trucks are under roof and are counted in the square footage. The next phase is developing construction documents.

The construction documents are used to obtain approval from the County for building permits and bidding the project out. We completed the construction documents and submitted them to Pima County for their approval and that is where the Station 4 project currently stands. Once the County completes their review and approves the construction documents we will put the station project out to bid. That will be the next phase of this project. While no date has been set for construction to begin we are hoping for a mid winter start.

The Computer Aided Dispatch and Information Management System project is well under way, also. We put out RFP's (Request for Proposals) and received

six proposals back. The committee assigned to this project is evaluating each proposal to insure that they meet the directives set in the RFP and will work in the manner requested. We hope to have a report to the Fire District Board by their July meeting with the recommendation for award to one of the vendors who returned their proposal.

When the bid is awarded the successful bidder has 6 months to complete the computer aided dispatch portion of the system, and another six months to complete the information management portion. This will allow us to insure that each phase of the project is working properly before the next phase is undertaken. We hope that this will prevent any major computer hardware or software glitches, but if they should occur it will allow the tracing and repairing of those glitches to be much faster and easier.

The final project we are working on currently is the replacement of our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) system. Our current SCBA's do not meet current standards that went into effect this year. We knew that this was coming and have been planning this project for several years. The committee assigned to this project obtained airpicks from several vendors and during a annual training session, that included live burns and confined space work, all personnel were allowed to use each airpick and evaluate it.

After the training sessions the committee compiled the recommendations from all of the personnel and made a recommendation to the Fire Chief as to their preference for a supplier for our SCBA systems. Currently, we are in negotiations with the supplier for some government pricing on this equipment, or more commonly known as GSA pricing. Obtaining this pricing negates the requirement of going out to bid for this equipment, and allows us to tack on to much larger buying groups, which allows for greater discounts. This project should be completed before the end of summer.

Just a reminder that the Fire District Board meets every third Friday of the month at Station 1 located at 5030 S. Camino Verde, Tucson Arizona at 9:00am. The facility is handicap accessible. Arrangements for the hearing impaired can be made with 10 days prior written notice. The Drexel heights Fire District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The next meeting of the Drexel Heights Fire District Board will be on Friday, July 18, 2003 at 9:00am at the Drexel Heights Fire Station Administrative Building located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is invited to attend. James Bertrand, Chairman; Bob Bishman, Clerk; Jayne Stepnosky, member; Laura Dailey, member; Ron Griel, member. Visit our website at www.drexelfire.net.

July 8, 2003, *Tucson Citizen*:

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2003

One-site trauma system doing OK

Ambulance services report no problems in the first week of taking seriously injured patients solely to University Medical Center.

ANNE T. DENOGEAN
adenogea@tucsoncitizen.com

It's far too early to rejoice, but Tucson's first week under a one-center trauma program went smoothly, ambulance and hospital officials said.

"We were not turned away by any hospitals - including University Medical Center," said Dave Motzkin, a spokesman for the LifeNet air ambulance service. "All of our patients went right where they were supposed to go."

University Medical Center became southern Arizona's only trauma center July 1, when Tucson Medical Center stopped offering top-level trauma care because of the cost.

Now, all the community hospitals must take the less seriously injured trauma patients when UMC is nearing capacity.

LifeNet delivered 16 trauma patients to Tucson-area hospitals this week, with UMC taking all of the most seriously injured and some of those with lesser injuries, Motzkin said.

It was an average weekend for LifeNet.

It is anticipated that helicopter ambulance services will play an increased role in the one-center trauma system because helicopters are often the quickest way to get patients from the far East Side to UMC, 1501 N. Campbell Ave.

Life Net recently added an eighth helicopter and crew to meet an expected increase in demand, Motzkin said.

Ground ambulance services, including Tucson Fire Department, Rural/Metro and Drexel Heights, reported no problems in the first week.

And doctors at other emergency rooms said they hadn't received any trauma patients they couldn't handle.

Greg Pivrotto, UMC president and chief executive officer, said the medical center didn't turn away any trauma patients in the past week.

The hospital had 16 red, 15 white and 49 green level trauma patients since July 1, he said. Trauma patients are categorized from most to least serious as red, white and green.

Pivrotto said the count of 16 for the most seriously injured was double the number UMC usually handles in a week. The 15 whites was normal. And the 49 greens was about 30 percent above the norm.

"One day, one week does not make a trend, but so far, so good," he said. "We're working hard."

"We're staying on top of it. Our goal is to do the best for our community."

* Mac Users Select "File > Print" from your menu bar to print page

July 17, 2003, *Tucson Citizen*:

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003

4 fire districts form hazardous materials team

The regional team is pooling resources for nuclear, chemical and biological disaster cleanups.

JACK GILLUM

jgillum@tucsoncitizen.com

The kickoff of a new regional hazardous materials team today will provide for a formal collaboration of fire districts during a disaster, fire officials said.

Beginning this week, the Pima Regional Hazardous Materials Team will take a multiagency approach to nuclear, chemical and biological disaster cleanups.

The Northwest, Golder Ranch, Drexel Heights and Green Valley fire districts are part of the new team, divided between north and south districts.

"We have operated as a team for a while," said Gary West, a battalion chief for Northwest Fire. "This is formalizing it and giving it some framework."

A kickoff begins today with a display of new hazardous material equipment and comments by county and fire officials at Pima Community College's West Campus, 2202 W. Anklam Road.

In a disaster, the team would operate on a "tiered-based response," Northwest officials said.

Out of four levels, each involves a higher complexity of agency response, with the highest including assistance from the Tucson Fire Department.

The team is composed of nearly 40 hazardous materials technicians from across the four districts.

Instead of each department buying its own equipment, the team will pool resources, according to Northwest Fire spokeswoman Katy Heiden.

"At this point, we will respond anywhere in the county," she said.

Some of the high-priced items include protective suits and hazardous material testers, such as new "weapons of mass destruction detectors," officials said.

That type of device alone can cost upward of \$20,000, West said.

Northwest Fire has a budget of \$70,000 for hazardous materials response, West said.

The other districts also budget thousand of dollars for their departments' own training and equipment.

"Before the team, it was pretty difficult to mitigate a situation on your own," said Chuck Wunder, a battalion chief for the Green Valley fire district.

Funding for the program will also come from state and federal grant money distributed by the county.

While countywide departments have trained together since 1997 for weapons of mass destruction, West points to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington as demonstrating the need to better pool resources for hazardous material recovery.

"I think that Sept. 11 was a wakeup call for everybody," West said. "It gave the project some well-needed focus."

July 30, 2003, *Tucson Citizen*:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2003

Mother Nature in angry mood

City hit by 1.31 inches of rain, most since Oct. 2000

IRENE HSIAO
ihhsiao@tucsoncitizen.com

Mother Nature pummeled Tucson's West Side with rain that stranded at least 10 cars in washes and blinked out power for about 2,000 residents yesterday.

Tucson International Airport was pelted with 1.31 inches of rain - the most Tucson has received since Oct. 11, 2000, when the National Weather Service recorded 1.53 inches, said Archie Benson, a hydrometeorologist for the National Weather Service.

"It just hit our district with a vengeance. This storm dropped a heck of a lot of water on us. Between probably 4:30 to 5 (p.m.), visibility was down to almost nothing," said Gary Bynum, an assistant chief with the Drexel Heights Fire Department.

Drexel Heights answered 10 water-rescue calls between 5 and 7 p.m. The calls, all on the Southwest Side, included three concerning abandoned cars and five cars with people, he said. Two other cars were no longer awash when firefighters arrived, Bynum said.

Shortly before 7 p.m., firefighters rescued a woman who was sitting on top of her van in water 5 to 7 feet deep near Ajo Highway and Old Ajo Highway, he said.

"Just after they plucked her off the van, the van began to roll down the wash from the force of the water," Bynum said.

Other rescues were at Ajo Highway and Tucson Estates Parkway; the wash in the 2900 block of West Wyoming Street; West Valencia Road and South Westover Avenue; and West Bopp and South Aldon roads.

Drexel Heights also went to a flooded house in the 2900 block of West Nebraska Street. A large tree fell on a driveway in the 2900 block of South Jamie Drive, a gas meter was sheared off after a mobile home shifted on South Kay Drive, and power lines fell in the 3800 block of South Donald Avenue.

About 2,000 residents lost power, including about 1,500 near Bopp Road and Ajo Highway, where flooding delayed crews from restoring power, and about 250 in Midvale Park, said John Brown, a Tucson Electric Power Co. spokesman.

About 1,300 customers lost power briefly before 7 p.m. after a power poll fell at First

Avenue and Tangerine Road.

Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix was closed from about 8:20 p.m. yesterday until 9:01 p.m., said Mike Set, aviation supervisor with the city of Phoenix.

"We had winds over 38 knots, and visibility was down to half a mile. And we had strong thunderstorms moving through," Set said, explaining why the airport was closed.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

* Mac Users Select "File > Print" from your menu bar to print

Police seek robber of East Side Fry's

Tucson Police are asking for help finding a man who robbed an East Side grocery store.

The dark-haired man entered Fry's Food & Drug, 7050 E. Golf Links Road, at 2:13 p.m. and presented a note demanding money, said Sgt. Marco Borboa, a Tucson Police Department spokesman.

The man implied he was armed and appeared to have a fanny pack on his right side, Borboa said.

The man was wearing a black cap, black shirt and shorts, Borboa said. He is described as 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing 175 pounds, Borboa said.

Tucson Police are not releasing the amount of money taken in the robbery.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call 911 or 88-CRIME.

Free address signs for Drexel Heights

The Drexel Heights Fire District recently got \$5,000 from Pima County to put address signs



Surveillance photo

Police are asking anyone who recognizes this man to call 88-CRIME.

on homes where the numbers are not clearly marked.

Many homes either lack addresses or the addresses are on group mailboxes, making it harder for firefighters to find them, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights spokeswoman.

Anyone living in the Drexel Heights area can get the new address signs, but some South-

BRIEFS

west Side neighborhoods are targeted, including those along West Bopp, South San Joaquin and West Valencia roads and South Cardinal Avenue, Koslowski said.

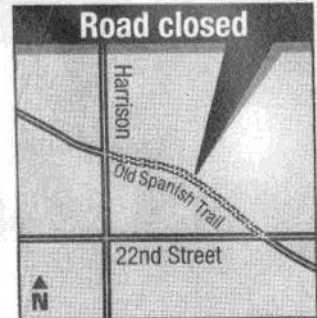
Ideal addresses have large letters on the front of the house that can be seen from a main street at night, she said.

Koslowski estimated that about half of the 12,000 to 15,000 homes in the district lack proper address signs.

The new signs will be helpful at night because they are reflective, Koslowski added. For more information about getting a new address sign, call 883-4341.

Target tunnel to close Old Spanish Trail block

Old Spanish Trail between Harrison Road and 22nd Street will be closed for about five weeks so the city can build a pedestrian tunnel under the



Tucson Citizen

driveway for a Target under construction there.

The city closed the block-long stretch of road yesterday to allow crews to "safely and efficiently" build a tunnel for a pedestrian and bicycle path that runs along the road, said Michael R. Graham, city transportation spokesman.

"Closing Old Spanish Trail will help shorten the duration of the multiuse trail project," Graham said.

— Citizen Staff Reports

Saturday, August 23, 2003 / ARIZONA DAILY STAR • B3

Drexel Heights gets \$5,000 for reflective address signs

By Carmen Duarte

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Drexel Heights Fire District received a \$5,000 grant to install free reflective address signs on properties of residents who live within the district.

About half of the 15,000 houses within the 90-square-mile rural district do not have addresses posted, or the ones posted are not easily visible — making it difficult for firefighters to find people who have dialed 911, said district Capt. George Berry.

The district's boundaries are roughly West Bopp Road on the north to West Hermans Road on the south, and South Westover Avenue on the east to South San Joaquin Road on the west.

"People don't realize the importance until they have an emergency," Berry said. He said the problem exists in undeveloped areas where people buy land and build a house or move into a manufactured home.

"Their mailboxes are usually all together at the end of a street," he said. "They receive their mail and people don't think they have to mark their houses with addresses.

"I have gone out to multiple calls involving heart attacks and strokes where minutes are critical.

We need to get to these people to help them, and the longer we are looking for their addresses, the longer it is taking us to give them care."

Firefighters will install the address signs, which are being ordered from the Arizona State Prison Complex-Tucson, 10000 S.

Wilmot Road, where it is being made by prisoners, Berry said.

The district received a Community Development Block Grant to pay for the signs, said Tracy Koslowski, a district spokeswoman. To obtain an address sign, a homeowner must contact Pima County Public Works Department's addressing section at 740-6480.

To sign up

► **What:** Free reflective address signs.

► **Where:** Drexel Heights Fire District office, 5030 S. Camino Verde, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

► **Contact:** Call 883-4341 for an application or information.

August 23, 2003, *Arizona Daily Star*:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2003

Two more drivers pulled from washes

Despite repeated warnings, people think 'nothing's going to happen to them,' firefighters discover.

IRENE HSIAO

ihshiao@tucsoncitizen.com

Firefighters rescued two drivers from washes on the West Side last night.

A man on his way home in a Dodge Neon was rescued from a wash with 3 feet of water at South Mark and West Los Reales roads at 7:48 p.m., said Gary Bynum, Drexel Heights Fire District's assistant chief.

At 8:56 p.m., another man was rescued from a wash near Ajo Highway and Old Ajo Highway, he said. The man drove a full-sized pickup truck into 4- to 5-feet-deep water.

"It seems like no matter how much we talk about it, the news reports it, people still drive in washes thinking nothing's going to happen to them, which is what these folks did tonight," Bynum said.

Ten minutes earlier firefighters found an abandoned car in a wash with water 6 to 7 feet deep near West Valencia Road and South Camino Verde.

Another abandoned car was discovered about 10 p.m. in a wash in the 7500 block of South Sorrel Lane where the water was a couple of feet deep, Bynum said.

No other information was available.

September 10, 2003, *Tucson Citizen*:

LOCAL NEWS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003


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In memory of Sept. 11: 11 roofs rise

Habitat for Humanity crews will be raising the roofs of 11 new homes on the anniversary of the terrorist attack that shocked the U.S. and the world.

SHERYL KORNMAN

Tucson Citizen

Habitat for Humanity volunteers will raise the roofs on 11 new homes Thursday to honor the heroes of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The foundations for the homes are being laid and the lumber is being cut in preparation for the one-day roof-raising Thursday, said Yvonne Coelet, a spokeswoman for Habitat for Humanity Tucson, said.

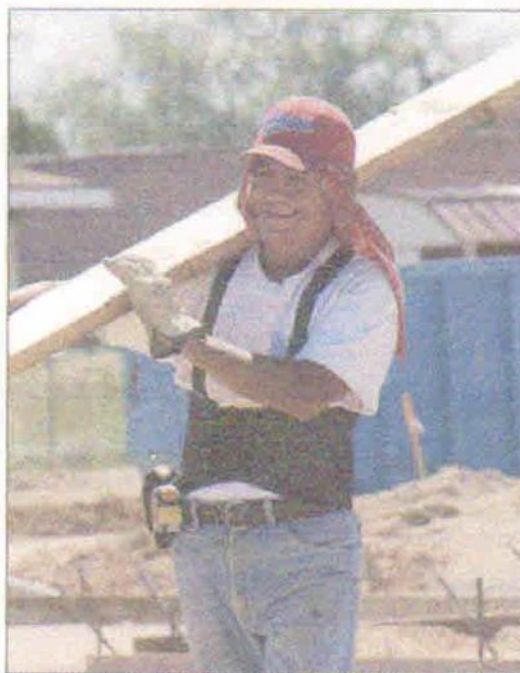
Among the families who will move into the homes after the target completion date in May are a mother, her 7-year-old daughter and grandma.

The girl is already planning to decorate her bedroom with a Barbie theme, Coelet said.

The girl's mother found out about Habitat for Humanity from a coworker who lives in a Habitat house.

Habitat for Humanity helps low-income families become homeowners.

Applicants are screened locally by Habitat for Humanity Tucson, 621 W. Lester St. Each eventual homeowner must give 400 hours of "sweat equity" to the program



TRICIA McINROY/Tucson Citizen

Roy Loreto carries a board being used to help lay the foundation.

September 10, 2003, *Tucson Citizen*:

while the house is being built.

It usually takes about 12 to 18 months to go through the approval process and move into a finished home.

In the case of the mother with the 7-year-old second-grader, Mom has been cleaning the Habitat offices as her "sweat equity" offering.

She works for a local uniform cleaning agency, Coelet said.



TRICIA McINROY/Tucson Citizen

Enrique Villalobos (left) and Eddie Perez work on the foundation of a future Habitat for Humanity home at 2565 W. Bilby Road. Eleven homes will be raised tomorrow on Sept. 11.

Habitat families are looking for safe, affordable housing, but don't qualify for conventional loans, she said.

Habitat homes require a minimal down payment and homeowners must be able to cover an interest-free monthly mortgage payment. Each home costs \$60,000.

One of the homes in the latest project, called First Freedom House, is being built with donations from individuals. Contributions are still being accepted and may be sent to Habitat for Humanity Tucson's office at 621 W. Lester St, Tucson, Ariz. 85705.

The Sept. 11 homes are being built on land donated by El Paso Natural Gas. The site is south of Drexel Heights Road and west of

Westover Avenue. The land was purchased by the utility in the 1950s, Coelet said.

A 12th home sponsored by Jim Click Automotive Group is being built off site and will be delivered to the Mission Heights neighborhood during the event.

The families getting new homes, along with a new community park in the Mission Heights neighborhood, represent different ethnicities and religions, Coelet said.

Five Pascua Yaqui families are among them.

Habitat officials say families who live in the homes become self-reliant through the program.

ON THE NET:

For more information, go to Habitat for Humanity Web site, hfhutucson.com/donate or call 326-1217 in Tucson.

September 19, 2003, *Tucson Citizen*:

LOCAL NEWS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2003

EMAIL THIS STORY

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RECENT STORIES BY

Fake acid spill prepares team for real hazards

Tucson Citizen



GARY GAYNOR/Tucson Citizen

The Pima Regional Hazardous Materials Team yesterday took on a simulated nitric acid spill behind the Target store at 3901 W. Ina Road.

The team, which includes firefighters from Green Valley, Drexel Heights, Golder Ranch and Northwest fire departments, practiced identifying a spill and using computer models to predict its spread.

ABOVE: Green Valley firefighters in protective suits approach a tanker truck to examine the source of the simulated leak.



GARY GAYNOR/Tucson Citizen

RIGHT: Green Valley firefighters Andy Baumann (left) and Steve Dooley prepare to deal with the simulated nitric acid spill.



GARY GAYNOR/Tucson Citizen

Green Valley firefighter Andy Baumann dons his protective suit in preparation for attacking the faux leak.



GARY GAYNOR/Tucson Citizen

Green Valley firefighter Steve Dooley secures his protective suit.

October 2003

Desert Times

Drexel Heights Fire Department

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education Officer



October Brings Fire Prevention Activities

The history of Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871 and continued the following day destroying everything in its path. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed the week in October in which the 8th day falls.

Drexel Heights Fire District will be celebrating the month of October as "Fire Prevention Month". This year, the Fire District will be focusing on educating the public and reinforcing the importance of fire safety. Each year many lives are lost to fire. Often these losses could have been avoided had precaution been taken. Fire Prevention Month is the time set aside to bring fire prevention and awareness to the forefront. This year the national theme is "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!"

District residents are reminded to have a plan ready for their homes in case of a fire. Knowing how to safely escape your home from fire and remembering to stay outside are two important parts of the plan. Here are some other tips you should remember to prepare yourself should a fire strike your home:

- Draw a diagram of the layout of your house.
- Mark all the doors and windows on the plan.
- It's important to make sure you have at least two ways out of each room of the house.
- Check the windows and the bars that might be on them to make sure they open freely.
- Decide who will help small children or older adults escape.
- Confirm you have smoke detectors in or near all sleeping areas and check them to verify the batteries still work. You can mark them on your floor plan.
- Select a family meeting place out in the front of your home, a safe distance away from the house, so the fire department can identify your home way

Decide who will call 911 from the neighbor's house.

- Practice the plan with all family members regularly to make sure that in the event of a fire, everyone will get out safely.
- Remind everyone not to go back inside for anything.

Drexel Heights Fire District is kicking off its fire prevention efforts with second graders at area schools. In setting up some hands-on activities on the school playgrounds, the children will learn the value of having an escape plan in their home. This program, the Mini-Muster, is an innovative concept for teaching children why having exit drills in their home is so important.

Another fire prevention activity Drexel Heights is planning is a "Community Safety Day". On Saturday, October 11th at the Manzanita Plaza on Cardinal and Valencia, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, you can join us in the parking lot of Safeway as we bring out some of our rescue equipment for you to see. Bring the whole family and explore the fire engines, rescue vehicles, ambulances and helicopter!

For more information on these activities or other Drexel Heights Fire District programs, please call us at 883-4341. You can also check us out on the web at www.drexelfire.net

The Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the third Friday of each month at 9:00am, in the conference room of Station #1 located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is, Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Robert Bishman, Member Laura Dailey, Member Ron Greil and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

Building Freedom Day:

Habitat For Humanity 9/11/03

September 11, 2003 was "Building Freedom Day" in one of Drexel Heights' neighborhood.

Habitat for Humanity, with the help of many volunteers and sponsors, built 11 homes from foundation to roofs in one day. A twelfth home was built off-site and moved to the neighborhood on September 11th. The homes are located on the south side of Bilby Road, just west of Westover Avenue.

After a Sunrise Service, there was a moment of silence and the raising of the flag by the Davis Monahan Honor Guard. Honorary Co-Chairs spoke during the morning festivities. After the closing comments, approximately 200 people headed to the 11 houses to start construction. Among the habitat homes was the First Freedom House. It was built in honor of our firefighters, police and armed forces and to commemorate the heroes who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Drexel Heights Fire District had 28 firefighters working on the First Freedom House. Helping on the same house were members from Northwest Fire District, Department of Corrections, 355 Division of Davis Monahan, Sabino High School students and many more. Drexel Heights Fire would like to thank these folks for all their hard work and assistance throughout the day.

Pima County Parks and Rec's Fall Country Fair

Pima County Parks and Recreation will hold a Fall County Fair on Sunday, October 19, from 10am-4pm at the Lew Sorensen Community Center. The center is located at 11100 East Tanque Verde Road (One mile east of the intersection of Houghton Road and Tanque Verde Road).

The fair will have a flea market, plants, garden furniture, arts and crafts such as potter, hand made soaps, stained glass, metal sculpture, quilts and more. The Desert Bluegrass Association will provide music. Some of Tucson's horticultural societies will have plants for show and sale. Local youngsters will show their birds at the Fancy Poultry Show.

For information, call Pat Tuttle, fair coordinator, at 232-1201, or email at pat.tuttle@parks.pima.gov. For participant information, please send as S.A.S.E to Pat Tuttle at PCPR, 4110 E River Road, Tucson, AZ 86708.

2003

October 25, 2003, *Arizona Daily Star & Tucson Citizen*:

Saturday, October 25, 2003 / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Firefighters visit elementary schools

Drexel Heights Fire District personnel visited elementary schools in October for Fire Prevention Month.

Firefighters set up equipment on playgrounds so second-graders could take part in firefighting activities and "Mini-Musters."

At the Mini-Musters, children learn what it is like to be a firefighter and get fire safety information.

The last of the Mini-Musters will be held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday at Vesey Elementary School, 5005 S. Butts Road.

For more information, call 883-4341.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2003

California's ablaze

Tucson area sends 12 firefighters

The 10 major fires have claimed 15 lives, more than 800 homes, and containment's a long way away.

ERIC SAGARA
esagara@tucsoncitizen.com

Twelve firefighters from the Tucson area are in California battling a string of blazes stretching from Mexico to Los Angeles.

Fire crews from national lands and parks throughout the Southwest are streaming toward the West Coast.

The Mount Lemmon Fire District has sent three of its own - more than a third of its full-time force, said Battalion Chief Harry Findysz.

"What we're doing is we're trying to generate revenue for the payroll," he said. "That's one of the ways the state is helping us out."

Mount Lemmon Fire lost 70 percent of its tax base this summer when the Aspen fire destroyed most of the homes in the Santa Catalina Mountains.

Findysz said it will be about 2 1/2 years before the community will recuperate to the point that it can support a fire district.

Large wildfires will be a source of income for the district until then, he said.

An engine that sprays fire-retardant foam was sent along with the three firefighters, who arrived at the Los Padres National Forest near Los Angeles Sunday night.

The department bought the engine after the 2002 Bullock fire and saw action in the Aspen and Kinishba fires and two fires in Montana this year.

"We really can't afford to send another truck because I don't have anybody else to staff it," Findysz said.

Related stories:

Warnings issued for travel to S. California

No flight cancellations yesterday

Death toll climbs to 15 - so far

Wildfires expected to be worst ever in California

2003

October 25, 2003, *Tucson Citizen*:

Many wildland firefighters are college students who have returned to school for the fall and can't respond to these fires, he added.

Corona de Tucson and Avra Valley fire districts sent three firefighters between them to operate a structural protection engine near San Diego starting Thursday.

"There's definitely a sense of urgency just from the amount of homes that are in danger," said Fank Mehey, a fire marshal for Corona de Tucson Fire. "That's where us and other stations meet the call and get out there right away. Those guys are doing a lot of hours out there."

Fire crews can work for as long as 21 days under federal law in special, extreme circumstances, Findysz said.

"If things are really bad, then they'll give you two days off and then put you on for another 21 days," he said. "It's a long time to be away."

This morning, some firefighters and a Type 1 fire engine from Golder Ranch Fire District will join a strike team near San Diego. Two firefighters from Golder Ranch left yesterday morning, said Capt. John Sullivan.

They will lead strike teams near San Bernadino County, but it is not yet known what task they will be assigned to, Sullivan said.

Another four firefighters and engine from the Northwest Fire District have also been dispatched to fires near San Diego, said Katherine Heiden, a Northwest Fire spokeswoman.

"This is probably a little later than the typical wildland season," Heiden said. "We tend to think of the wildland season starting somewhere in April or May and ending in September, but obviously we have very dry conditions across the western United States."

Ten to 15 people and at least two engines from the Coronado National Forest have been dispatched to California, but none of them are from the Santa Catalina Ranger District near Tucson, said Sheryl Dickson, manager of the Southeastern Zone Coordination Center that dispatches crews to wildfires on federal and state land.

Most of the personnel got called up to the fires Sunday, but are forced to drive to their assignments because of airport closures, she said.

Crews and other personnel from state and federal land in Arizona and New Mexico are heading to the blazes, Dickson said.

The Arizona State Land Department has also sent several engines.

Deneen Cone, dispatch manager for the Arizona Land Department, said six stations around Arizona sent crews to the central-coast town of Santa Maria, Calif., on Sunday morning. They joined others that left earlier in the week.

California crews routinely help Arizona during wildfire season, and Couch said both states have well-trained wildfire crews.

Meanwhile other fire departments around Tucson, such as the Drexel Heights Fire District, are waiting for a call for help from California.

"I know there's a lot of people working that fire, but sometimes they need those people to go back and recoup, so we're ready if they call," said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for Drexel Heights.

Drexel Heights Fire Department

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education Officer



Holiday Safety

The Holiday Season is on its way and so is decorating and entertaining for family and friends. While safety is important year round it is especially important during the holiday season.

Keep your family and overnight guests safe during the holidays and year-round with working smoke detectors. Be sure to follow all instructions carefully.

Start off the holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven. Try to keep the kitchen off-limits to young children and adults that are not helping with food preparations to lessen the possibility of kitchen mishaps. While cooking, do not wear clothing with loose sleeves or dangling jewelry, the clothing can catch on fire and the jewelry can catch on pot handles, causing spills and burns. Whenever possible, cook on the back burners and always turn pot handles in so they don't extend over the edge of the stove. Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, turn off the stove or have someone else watch what is being cooked.

It is always safer to have the cigarette smokers smoke outside. If smoking is allowed inside, provide guests with large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. After guests leave, check the inside of your house and under the upholstery for cigarette butts which can begin to smolder later on. Remember to never empty ashtrays in the house trash.

Keep Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations and kitchen clutter away from sources of direct heat. Candles are often part of holiday decorations. However candles should never be left burning when you are away from home, after going to bed, and always must be out of reach of children, and where guests will not accidentally brush against them. The candleholder should be completely noncombustible and difficult to knock over, and should be clear of any combustible decorations.

If purchasing an artificial tree this year, make sure to check for the label reading "Fire Resistant." If your tree does not have this tag, spraying it

with a flame retardant is always a good idea.

Live trees should always be checked for freshness, its green needles should not fall off when you tap the tree on the ground. Be sure to keep the stand filled with water and check it daily, a 6' live tree will use 1 gallon of water every two days. Keep all Christmas trees away from heaters, fireplaces or other heat sources. Finally, safely dispose of your tree before it becomes dangerously dry, however never burn a tree or tree parts in your fireplace.

When it comes to decorations, use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim the trees. In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of reach of small children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces.

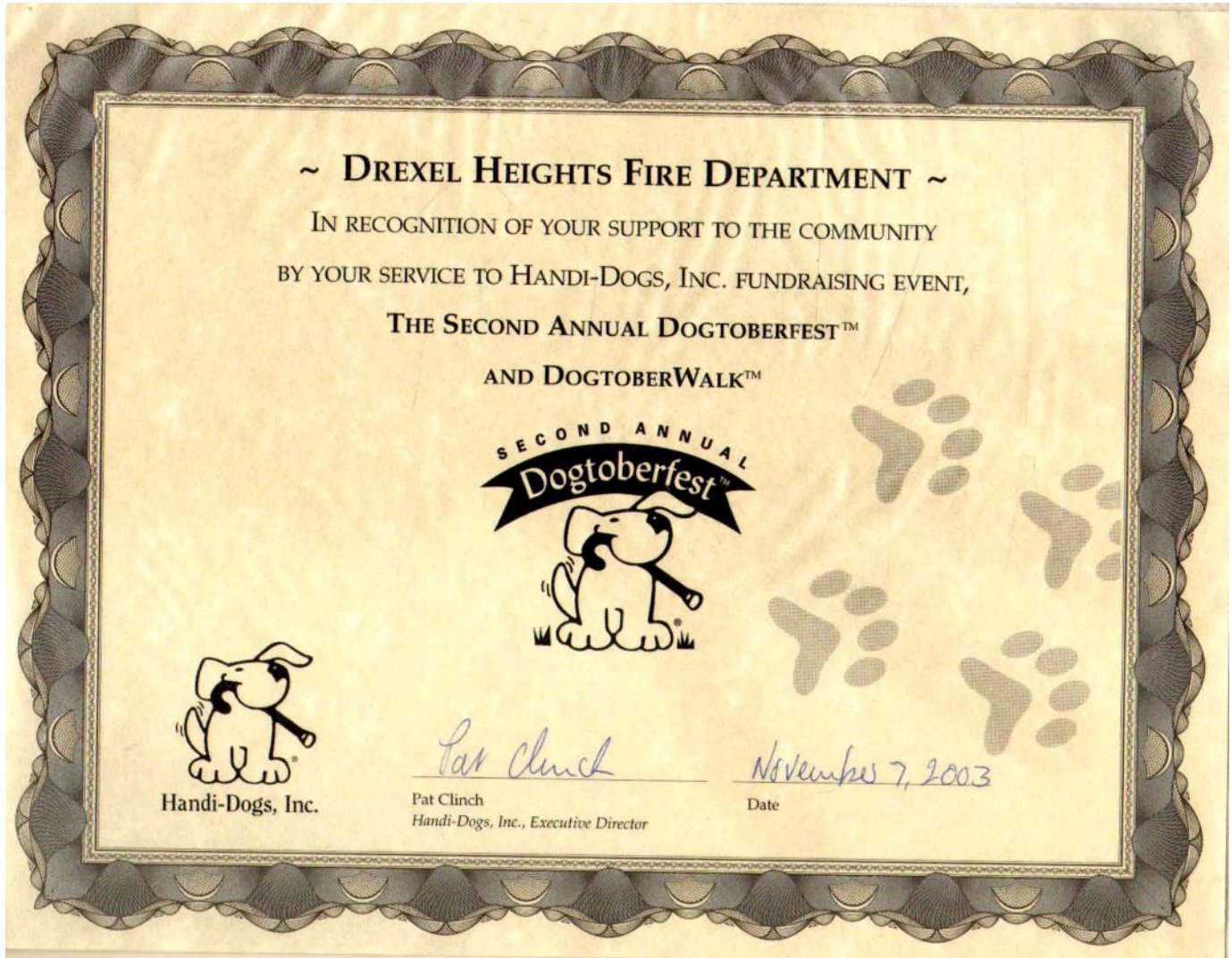
If using decorative lights, it's important to only use lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, such as UL Laboratories, as this indicates conformance with safety standards. Check all your indoor and outdoor lights for frayed cords and replace if necessary. Before using lights outdoors, it's important that the labels on them have been certified for outdoor use. Lights should never be touching any type of combustible materials. Avoid using extension cords at all when possible; but if you must use them follow the instructions carefully. Do not overload electrical circuits, such as wall outlets and extension cords, always use a circuit strip. Turn off all decorative lights prior to leaving your home or going to bed. The lights could short out and start a fire.

All of us at Drexel Heights Fire District wish you an enjoyable and safe Holiday Season this year!
Board Meeting

The Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the third Friday of each month at 9:00 am, in the conference room of Station #1 located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend.

2003

November 7, 2003:



Drexel Heights Fire Department

by Tracy Koslowski,
Public Education/Information Specialist



Carbon Monoxide

It's a killer that you can't see, smell, or taste. Initial symptoms mimic the flu, and can include: dizziness, fatigue, headache, nausea, and irregular breathing. High levels of exposure result in the death of approximately 200 people per year in the United States. This "senseless" killer is Carbon Monoxide, and the incomplete burning of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels produces it. Therefore, any fuel-burning appliance or device in your home or camp is a potential source of Carbon Monoxide.

Carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion of fossil fuels. Fumes from automobiles contain high levels of CO. Appliances such as furnaces, space heaters, clothes dryers, ranges, ovens, water heaters, charcoal grills, fireplaces and wood burning stoves produce CO. Carbon monoxide usually is vented to the outside if appliances function correctly and the home is vented properly. Problems occur when furnace heat exchangers

crack or vents and chimneys become blocked.

Insulation sometimes can trap CO in the home.

Carbon Monoxide Facts:

- When breathed, Carbon Monoxide attaches itself to your body's hemoglobin and displaces the oxygen that the body organs need. Many people with CO poisoning mistake their symptoms for the flu or are misdiagnosed by physicians, which sometimes results in tragedy.
- Some people are more vulnerable to Carbon Monoxide poisoning: Infants, children, senior citizens, and those with heart or lung problems.
- Appliances that are kept in good condition produce little Carbon Monoxide; however improperly operating appliances can produce fatal CO concentrations in your home.
- Using charcoal and/or propane cookers indoors, running a car in an attached garage, or using a portable

"camping type" heater, lantern or stove that is not equipped with the new generation of Oxygen Depletion Sensor (ODS) can cause deadly Carbon Monoxide poisoning in your home or camp.

• Carbon Monoxide detectors are reasonably inexpensive devices, and are available for your home, boat, motor home, or towable recreational vehicle. It is recommended that a Carbon Monoxide detector be installed adjacent to every separate sleeping area.

Important Tips:

- Regularly have your fuel-burning appliances (including fireplaces/chimneys) serviced by qualified service personnel with the proper knowledge, skills, and tools. Always refer to the owner's manual when performing minor adjustment/service of fuel-burning appliances.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home garage, vehicle, or tent.
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage

continued on next page

Firefighters Promote Holiday Season Adopt-A-Family

United Pima Firefighters Local 3504 and the Drexel Heights Fire District are accepting donations of any amount to their Holiday Season Adopt-a-Family program. Firefighters of the Drexel Heights Fire District will be delivering gifts, food and toys to area families that could use a little extra help this Holiday Season.

Donations are being accepted at all Drexel Heights fire stations, at the following locations:

- Station 1,
5030 S. Camino Verde 883-3710.
- Station 2,
6340 S. Mark Rd. 883-1138.
- Station 3,
5960 S. Cardinal Rd. 883-4364.
- Station 4,
3195 S. Kinney Rd. 883-5234.

Administrative offices are

located at 5030 S. Camino Verde, and can be contacted by calling 883-4341. Please make checks payable to UPFF Local 3504.

Please help your firefighters help others this Holiday Season. Your generosity will make a big difference to needy families.

Drexel Heights Fire District, *continued from previous page*

door open.

- Never use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers for heating your home.
- Never operate non-vented fuel-fired appliance in any room with closed doors or windows or in any room where people are sleeping.
- Know the symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. Carbon Monoxide reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen, and low blood oxygen levels can result in loss of consciousness and even death. These symptoms closely mimic the flu, and are sometimes misdiagnosed.

If you experience these symptoms, it is advisable to extinguish any possible source(s) of Carbon Monoxide and move to an area with fresh air. Remember, if you have any of these symptoms and if you feel better when you go outside of your home and the symptoms come back once you're inside again, you may have CO poisoning.

This is an extremely important safety message, particularly during the winter months. Drexel Heights Fire is strongly encouraging everyone to

have their home heating systems, including their chimneys, inspected annually by a qualified technician. Also, make sure you have at least one UL listed Carbon Monoxide Detector installed in the hallway outside sleeping rooms. This type of detector is designed to sound an alarm BEFORE the carbon-monoxide level in your home becomes hazardous. If a home has more than one story, a detector should be placed on each story.

For more information on fire department public education programs, contact the Drexel Heights Fire District at 883-4341. You can also check us out on the web www.drexelfire.net

The Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the third Friday of each month at 9:00 am, in the conference room of Station #1 located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is, Chairperson James Bertrand, Clerk Robert Bishman, Member Laura Dailey, Member Ron Greil and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

2003

December 19, & 29, 2003:

DREXEL HEIGHTS FD News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tracy Koslowski (520) 883-4341

DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2003

Toy Drive

The Drexel Heights Fire District and the Southwest Family Resource and Wellness Center are in desperate need for toys this season for their Family Christmas program. These two organizations packaged more than 700 food boxes that went out to low-income and needy families on Thursday of this week. However, there were not enough toys for the kids of these families.

The Southwest Family Resource and Wellness Center and the Drexel Heights Fire District needs to collect toys for these families. The center is having the families return on Tuesday night from 6:00-9:00pm to pick up toys. Currently, the center is short 600 toys for the families on the southwest side.

Any donations can be made to any of the Drexel Heights Fire Stations or to the SW Family Resource and Wellness Center itself.

Drexel Heights Fire Stations:

5030 S. Camino Verde

6340 S. Mark Rd.

5960 S. Cardinal

3195 S. Kinney Rd.

SW Family Resource and Wellness Center:

6855 S. Mark Rd.

DREXEL HEIGHTS FD News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tracy Koslowski (520) 883-4341

DATE: December 29, 2003

It is with deepest regret that we inform you of the passing of Sam Cummings on the 29th of December 2003. Sam Cummings was the former Fire Chief of Drexel Heights Fire District.

Chief Cummings, who was hired in 1975 as a volunteer captain, was promoted to Fire Chief in 1980 and resigned in 1984. Chief Cummings had a history of dedication with the fire service prior to coming to Drexel Heights when he volunteered with Long Island Fire in New York. After his tenure with the Drexel Heights Fire, he continued to remain involved and in contact with the department. He could be found visiting the fire stations from time to time.

His wife, 3 sons, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren as well as numerous friends survive Chief Cummings. Condolences go out to his family and friends at the loss of their husband, father and friend.

Sam Cummings was born June 3rd, 1917; his final alarm was December 29th 2003 at the age of 86 years. Drexel Heights Fire District's station flags were at half mass. There will be no services held.

B6 • ARIZONA DAILY STAR / Tuesday, December 30, 2003

Drexel Heights ex-fire chief dies

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Drexel Heights firefighters flew their flags at half-staff on Monday in honor of former Fire Chief Sam Cummings, who died at his home at age 86.

Cummings died Monday of what is believed to be natural causes, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman. Cummings joined the department in 1975 as a volunteer captain.

He served as fire chief from 1980 to 1984. Cummings lived within fire district boundaries and continued to visit firefighters frequently even after leaving the department.

Firefighters were called to Cummings' home Monday morning, Koslowski said. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Cummings is survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters. Upon his request, his family scheduled no funeral services.

2004

May 8, 2004, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/southwest/fire-district-plans--year-party/article_14fa7e8d-fd4b-5f9e-bde6-570699da6e0b.html

Fire district plans 50-year party

DREXEL HEIGHTS DEPARTMENT NOW PROTECTS 40,000

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May 08, 2004 12:00 am • By Carmen Duarte Arizona Daily Star

[0](#)

If you go

What: Drexel Heights Fire District will celebrate 50 years of service with music, games and free food.

When: May 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Fire Station 3, 5960 S. Cardinal Ave., and Fire Station 4, 3195 S. Kinney Road.

For more information: 883-4341

Four new stations planned

Drexel Heights Fire District plans include:

This summer, construction of a \$1 million station at 3195 S. Kinney Road, replacing Station 4, which is a mobile home.

Next summer, building a \$1 million station at 5960 S. Cardinal Ave., replacing Station 3, which is more than 30 years old.

In about three years, building a \$1.2 million station near West Valencia and South Wade roads. It would replace Fire Station 2 at 6340 S. Mark Road, which would house the hazardous materials crew and the battalion chief's office.

In about four years, adding a \$1.2 million station on South San Joaquin Road between West Bopp Road and West Ajo Way. It would replace Fire Station 1 at 5030 S. Camino Verde, which may become a training center.

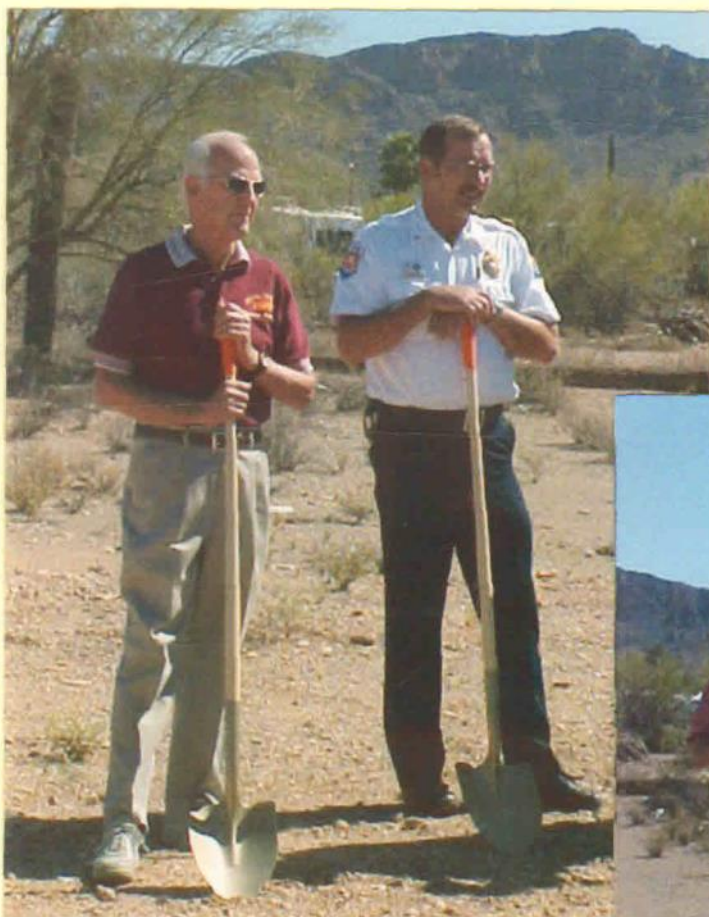
2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004:



2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004:



2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004:



AUGUST 2004

AUGUST 2004

OCTOBER 2004



2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004:



2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004:



2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004:



2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004: NOVEMBER



2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004: NOVEMBER



2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004: December



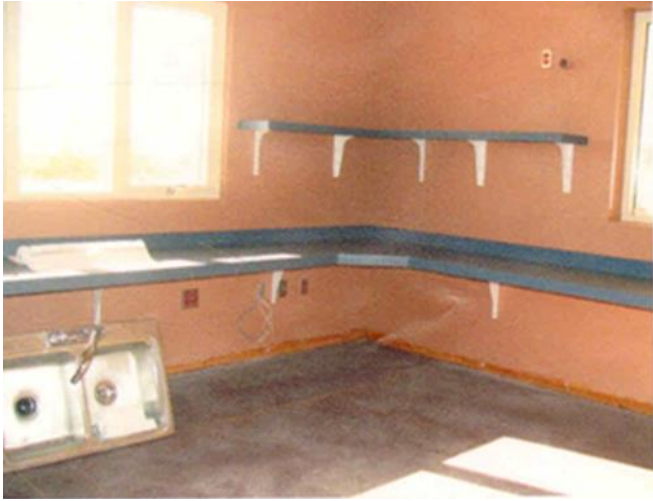
2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004: December



2004

May 28, 2004, ground breaking: See full Scrapbook in Scrapbook 2000-2004: December



January 2005



2004

May 15, 2004, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/2004/05/15/101764-salvation-army-center-damaged/>

Salvation Army center damaged

by Irene Hsiao on May 15, 2004, under City/State



Citizen Staff

By IRENE HSIAO

ihsiao@tucsoncitizen.com

A fire at a South Side Salvation Army property yesterday caused up to \$8,000 of damage.

A 911 caller from the agency's Adult Rehabilitation Center, which includes housing for people in substance abuse treatment, a thrift store, donation center and offices, reported the fire at 11:47 a.m., South Tucson Fire Chief Larry Anderson said.

Firefighters removed 75 people from the complex, in the 2700 block of South Sixth Avenue. The center should be functioning within 48 hours, Anderson said.

Firefighters responded within three minutes and found that the blaze, which started in a painting booth, had spread to the roof, he said.

Seventeen firefighters responded, 12 from South Tucson, four from Drexel Heights Fire District and one administrator from the Tucson Fire Department, Anderson said.

The cause is under investigation, and no one was injured, he said.

PHOTO CAPTION: XAVIER GALLEGOS/Tucson Citizen

The South Tucson Fire Department rolls up hoses after a fire yesterday at the Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center, 2717 S. Sixth Ave.

2004

June 25, 2004, DHFD:



September 11, 2004, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/2004/09/11/141263-two-fire-departments-get-grants-from-feds/>

Two fire departments get grants from feds

by David L. Teibel on Sep 11, 2004, under City/State



Citizen Staff Writer

By DAVID L. TEIBEL

dteibel@tucsoncitizen.com

Drexel Heights Fire District and the Tucson Fire Department will get grants for new equipment and training from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the federal agency announced.

Firefighters in Drexel Heights Fire District on Tucson's West Side will get equipment and training this year that ordinarily would be spread over several years, said Drexel Heights Fire Chief Douglas Chappell.

"The equipment is needed very, very badly by us, and this is a relief to our taxpayers," Chappell said.

The grants will pay for four new heart monitors on paramedic trucks, Chappell said.

Drexel Heights' grant is for \$100,350. Local agencies must match 10 percent of the grant funds, Chappell said.

The grant also will buy exercise equipment for a new fire station being built on South Kinney Road and 10 fire-resistant suits known as "turn-out suits," Chappell said.

The Tucson Fire Department is getting \$174,878, according to a Homeland Security news release.

The money will be used to upgrade computers in firetrucks and buy hazardous materials-detection devices and emergency medical equipment, said Deputy Chief Randy Ogden, a Tucson Fire Department spokesman.

It also will be used for firefighter and citizen volunteer training and communications equipment, Ogden said.

"It's money for equipment that ultimately would come out of the city budget," Ogden said. He said the grant saves Tucson taxpayers money and allows the department to buy equipment and provide training now that otherwise would be put off at least two years.

The funds are part of \$23 million in Homeland Security grants to fire departments around the nation.

2005

April 27, 2005, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/2005/04/27/29698-drexel-heights-fire-district-gets-new-1m-station/>

Drexel Heights Fire District gets new \$1M station

by La Monica Everett-Haynes on Apr 27, 2005, under City/State



Citizen Staff Writer

By LA MONICA EVERETT-HAYNES

lmhaynes@tucsoncitizen.com

The manufactured home Drexel Heights Fire District firefighters used for a decade has been replaced with a new building.

And as home improvement is meant to be, the new station comes with a lot more.

The building, at 3244 S. Kinney Road, features ample space for fire engines and an ambulance, includes an exercise room, a kitchen, individual bedrooms and a day room. It also has a generator for backup power.

"The exercise room and bathrooms are the big things with the firefighters," said Tracy Koslowski, the district's public information officer.

"They've been in a mobile home all this time, so it's quite a facility for them. They didn't have anything like this before."

Construction for the \$1 million, 7,000-square-foot station began in August. Money from the project is from voter-approved bonds, Koslowski said.

About 15 firefighters use the station with five at a time working daily shifts.

"We could double the number of crews and firefighters we have there should we see a population increase," she said.

As for the old property, Koslowski said the district hopes to sell it before year's end and will relocate the mobile home to one of its three other stations.

January 25, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:*Az Daily Star 1-25-06 Wednesday*

Mentally ill man's kin file claim vs. Sheriff's Dept. in his death

By Becky Pallack

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The widow and the mother of a mentally ill man who died alongside a sheriff's deputy and a taxicab driver in an August accident have filed a wrongful-death claim against the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

The \$5 million claim on behalf of Aaron Swyers' wife, Rose Swyers, and his mother, Julie Akin, says the Sheriff's Department was negligent in training deputies to recognize and help the mentally ill.

The county has 60 days to respond to the claim, and then the family may file a lawsuit.

The Sheriff's Department has declined comment on the claim.

"There's no reason to believe this was anything other than a tragic accident," Sheriff Clarence Dupnik said in the days after the incident.

Aaron Swyers, a 23-year-old roofer, Deputy Timothy Graham, 30, and cabdriver Dawud Isa Abusida, 56, were killed as they struggled on a dark stretch of Ajo Way. Graham had responded to a call from a convenience-market clerk about a suspicious man outside the store.

The claim contains new information about the incident. According to the document:

When he arrived, Graham saw Swyers in the crosswalk on

Kinney Road. Swyers turned and walked away, and Graham pursued him. He caught up to Swyers and tried to handcuff him, but only got the cuff on one wrist. Swyers was delusional, became frightened and ran.

Graham chased Swyers and fired his Taser, but only one of two probes needed to activate a shock hit him. Swyers then ran into the westbound traffic lanes, where Graham was able to take him to the ground.

Abusida stopped to help Graham, and, as they struggled, a pickup truck moving at about 50 mph hit all three men, fatally injuring them.

Toxicology reports later showed Swyers was on methamphetamine. Additionally, Abusida tested positive for cocaine.

Codac Behavioral Health Services had identified Swyers as "seriously mentally ill," according to the claim. Swyers, who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, was court-ordered to receive care from the agency, according to the claim.

Swyers had told his wife the medicine he was taking wasn't helping him, and he was self-medicating with meth.

The conduct of the Sheriff's Department "fell below the standard of care" when it failed to send an officer with crisis-intervention training to assist the

mentally ill, according to the Swyers family claim. The department also failed to give Graham such training, it said.

The attorney for the Swyers family, Phillip Tor, could not be reached for comment.

Some 20 to 25 percent of officers at the Sheriff's Department and Tucson Police Department have taken crisis-intervention training, said H. Clarke Romans, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Southern Arizona.

The training is a weeklong course that teaches officers what mental illnesses are, how mentally ill people function and how to help them calm down when they need help, he said. Officers need to know how to de-escalate a situation to prevent violence or fleeing, he added.

Agencies must be able to dispatch available officers who have had the training, Romans said. That's where the Sheriff's Department falls short, he said, perhaps because the department covers a large geographical area. And the officers must have an alternative to taking a mentally ill person straight to jail, Romans said.

Contact reporter Becky Pallack at 629-9412 or at bpallack@azstarnet.com.

January 25, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Wreck ends chase, closes streets

Man sought by police held after collision at Tucson and 22nd

By Alexis Huicochea
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A Tucson man was arrested Tuesday afternoon after leading police on a chase in Midtown and nearly running over two officers, authorities said.

Hugo Lopez, 25, had warrants for his arrest, and members of the Fugitive In-

vestigative Strike Team were watching him when they found him stopped at a red light at East Pima Street and North Alvernon Way, said Sgt. Mark Robinson, a Tucson Police Department spokesman.

As officers approached Lopez, he put the tan Chevrolet Impala he was driv-

ing into reverse and attempted to run over an officer, Robinson said.

That officer jumped out of the way and was not injured, he said.

Then, Lopez put the car in drive and tried to run over an officer in front of the car, who also got out of the way without injury.

Lopez then drove away, leading police on a chase that ended at South Tucson Boulevard and East 22nd Street 12 minutes later when his car crashed head-on into a silver Chevrolet Malibu, Robinson said. The crash closed down the intersection for several hours.

During the chase, Lopez rammed an unmarked Ford pickup truck being

SEE CHASE / B2

CHASE

Tucson man, 25,
is held on assault,
many other counts

Continued from Page B1

driven by a sergeant, he said.

Inside the car with Lopez was his girlfriend, who was sitting in the passenger seat holding a 2-year-old girl in her lap, he said.

Lopez's girlfriend told police she was being held against her will, Robinson said. She and the child were treated at the scene for minor injuries.

Lopez, of the 2700 block of North Edith Boulevard, was arrested after the crash, although he did resist for a short time, police said.

Tyler Wadlund, a Pima Community College student who was a passenger in the car that Lopez hit, said the scene was something out of a TV show.



Jeffrey Scott / Arizona Daily Star

Hugo Lopez, left, was arrested after a chase and a collision that started when Tucson police officers approached him at a traffic light, where they said he attempted to hit two of the officers with his car.

"We were on 22nd about to turn left on Tucson Boulevard and we saw all these cop cars coming down the street just for one car," Wadlund said. "We were stopped because we didn't want to get hit, but that car just kept coming at us, so we braced

for the impact."

Wadlund said his friend's car was hit with such force that it is hard to believe that he, his friend and his friend's girlfriend walked away with only scratches and soreness.

Joseph Malkin, the driver

and owner of the Malibu that was struck, added: "I am glad we were able to help the police stop the guy, but it is a bummer that my car is pretty much totaled."

Lopez was wanted on a failure-to-appear warrant in connection with a home invasion last February in the 7000 block of South Westover Avenue, near South Cardinal Avenue and West Los Reales Road, Robinson said.

He also was named in a narcotics warrant issued in Pinal County.

Lopez was booked into the Pima County jail on a number of charges including two counts of aggravated assault, one count of assault, three counts of criminal damage, one count of child abuse, one count of unlawful flight from law enforcement, five counts of endangerment, probation violation and failure to appear.

► Contact reporter Alexis Huicochea at 629-9412 or ahuicochea@azstarnet.com.

Desert Times

February 2006

Drexel Heights Fire District

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager



Community Safety Day

Drexel Heights Fire District and United Pima Firefighters are sponsoring the third annual Community Safety Day on Saturday, March 4, 2006 at the Manzanita/Safeway shopping center on the northwest corner of Cardinal and Valencia. This vehicle display and safety fair is FREE to everyone!

The goal of Community Safety Day is to provide free safety information and to inform the community about the services we provide. We will be sharing information on the many different ways you can protect yourself from fire, and from injuries. Safety information and displays will be available throughout the event. We will also have rescue vehicles and tools on display to inform the community about how this equipment helps the firefighters when helping them.

Drexel Heights Fire has invited other public safety agencies out to participate in the event. Our department works and trains along side many different organizations, which helps to protect and serve our community better. Some of the apparatus displays will include fire engines, a helicopter, ambulances, rescue equipment, plus much more!

In conjunction with the safety fair the United Pima Firefighters will also be hosting a Salsa Standoff! Much like a chili cook off, this salsa competition will bring a variety of entries for everyone to try. If you are a salsa maker, there is a minimal entry fee of \$10. The entry fee includes your salsa jug to fill, plus chips and salsa cups for the firefighters to serve your salsa in. If you're a salsa lover, come and taste all of the delicious entries. There will also be hot dogs and nachos available. All proceeds go to the United Pima

Firefighters annual collection for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Drexel Heights Fire District and United Pima Firefighters would like to invite you to attend this year's event. For more information you can contact the Drexel Heights Fire District administration offices at 883-4341. We look forward to seeing you at this year's Community Safety Day!

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9am, in the conference room of Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.

Celebrate the Ironwood Tree

On March 11, the Ironwood Festival takes place at the Mason Audubon Center, an educational and researches facility on the outskirts of Tucson. The site consists of 22 acres of pristine arid land inhabited by native animals and wildlife, over 400 Ironwood trees and hundreds of towering saguaro cacti.

For more information call, 520-744-0004.

February 13, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

3 hurt in separate accidents while hiking near Tucson

FEBRUARY 13, 2006 12:00 AM • BY DJAMILA GROSSMAN ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Three men were injured Sunday in separate hiking accidents in mountains near Tucson.

Two of the men suffered serious head injuries, and the third had a broken leg.

A 19-year-old sustained head injuries in a 40-foot fall from a cliff in the Tucson Mountains, officials said.

The man, whose name was not released, lost consciousness after hitting his head on a rock and was flown to Tucson Medical Center around 5 p.m., said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman with the Drexel Heights Fire District.

The man was riding an all-terrain vehicle on a trail with his brother. They stopped the vehicle and began walking on the trail, Koslowski said.

The man fell, and his brother called 911. Koslowski said she did not have further details on how the incident happened.

Nine Drexel Heights rescuers arrived at the site. They climbed up to the victim, then lowered him down the mountain in a Stokes basket, which keeps patients from being moved around during rescue operations, Koslowski said.

In another incident, a 24-year-old man fell from a cliff at about 11 a.m. when walking on the Pontatoc Trail in the Santa Catalina Mountains.

Jeremy Monroe was hiking off-trail and fell backward 12 feet. He hit the back of his head and lost consciousness for 10 to 15 minutes, said Mike Morris, shift supervisor in communications at the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Monroe was with friends who saw the accident and called 911.

Several rescue teams were sent to the scene. Some hiked in, and others were flown in by helicopter.

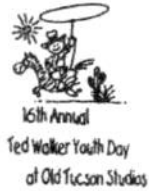
The copter took Monroe to University Medical Center, where he was treated for head injuries, Morris said. It was not known if he had additional injuries.

In a third incident, a 45-year-old man fell on Mount Lemmon and broke his leg, said Morris, who did not have further details.

Because the weather is ideal for hiking, many people are heading outdoors, Koslowski said. But it is crucial to take safety measures such as carrying a cell phone, staying on trails and letting someone know the intended route, she said.

2006

February 15, 2006:



February 15, 2006

To all groups assisting with Youth Day,

On behalf of Pima County Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation, The Dan Felix Memorial Foundation, and Old Tucson Studios, I would like to thank you for your participation in the 16th Annual Ted Walker Youth Day at Old Tucson Studios. We were pleased to partner with you to offer Pima County elementary school children an exciting and educational day!

I have been reassigned and will no longer be in charge of putting together this event. I will be forwarding all of my contact information to Aaron Smith. Keep your eyes open for correspondence from Aaron regarding next year's event.

Once again thank you for your participation and we hope that you had as much fun at this event as we did! Please call me at 877-6114 if you have any questions or suggestions regarding next year.

Sincerely,

Lacey Gould

Recreation Program Coordinator

2006

February 21, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Tucson man burned in explosion

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February 21, 2006 12:00 am

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A Tucson man suffered burns to his hand and face Monday afternoon when explosives detonated outside of his Tucson Mountain area home.

Around 3:20 p.m. a neighbor took the man to the Drexel Heights Fire Department for treatment, said Sgt. James Ogden, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokesman.

While he was being treated, firefighters were at his home in the 3000 block of South Gold Flower Ave., near West Bopp and South San Joaquin roads, extinguishing his truck, which was set afire by an explosion of unknown origin around it, Ogden said.

The man, whose name has not been released, was taken to St. Mary's Hospital and then later taken to a hospital in Maricopa County, he said.

Pima County Sheriff's Department detectives and the explosive ordnance unit are investigating.

No further information was available Tuesday.

March 22, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Truck explosion was caused by two pipe bombs

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March 22, 2006 12:00 am • By Becky Pallack *Arizona Daily Star*

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An explosion that left a Tucson man with severe burns was caused by two pipe bombs that were planted under the driver's seat in his pickup truck, investigators have determined.

James R. Blayda, 33, is recovering in Tucson after initially going to a Maricopa County hospital to be treated for second- and third-degree burns to his face, neck and hands.

He was the target of the bombing, although detectives aren't ready to say if they have a motive or any leads, Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman, said Tuesday.

The devices detonated the afternoon of Feb. 20 in Blayda's truck outside his home, in the 3000 block of South Gold Flower Avenue, near West Bopp and South San Joaquin roads.

A neighbor took Blayda to the Drexel Heights Fire Department after finding him injured.

Detectives haven't determined what triggered the explosion, but said they hope forensic evidence will lead to the person who planted them, Barkman said.

It's not difficult to make a pipe bomb, but local authorities rarely receive reports of one that detonated, she said.

Anyone with information is asked to call 911 or 88-CRIME, the anonymous tip line of the Pima County Attorney's Office.

- Contact reporter Becky Pallack at 629-9412 or at bpallack@azstarnet.com.

2006

March 23, 2006, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/2006/03/23/175672-pipe-bombs-cause-of-truck-explosion/>

Tucson Citizen

Pipe bombs cause of truck explosion

by David L. Teibel on Mar 23, 2006, under City/State



By DAVID L. TEIBEL

dteibel@tucsoncitizen.com

An explosion that set off a fire in a pickup, injuring a Southwest Side man last month was caused by two pipe bombs under the man's truck seat, a sheriff's spokeswoman said.

There are no suspects in the truck bombing and detectives have not established a motive in the bombing that injured James R. Blayda, 33, of South Gold Flower Avenue, said Deputy Dawn Barkman.

Blayda sustained second-degree burns to his hands, arms and face, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire Department spokeswoman. Barkman said Blayda was hospitalized, but now is recovering at his home.

Koslowski said earlier that Blayda got into his truck to leave his home near South San Joaquin and West Bopp roads about 2 p.m. Feb. 20 when there was an explosion and the truck began to burn.

A neighbor put out the fire with a garden hose, and someone took Blayda to a Drexel Heights fire station.

Barkman said evidence from the truck has been sent to a crime lab for analysis. She would not say what that evidence was other than it included parts of the bombs.

She did not know whether the bombs were wired to the truck's ignition or if they were set off in some other manner.

2006

March 26, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Occupant flees fire at home on SW Side

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Respond: [Write a letter to the editor](#) | [Write a guest opinion](#)

March 26, 2006 12:00 am

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A house fire on the Southwest Side kept firefighters busy for more than an hour Saturday night, a fire official said.

Several neighbors made 911 calls around 8 p.m. to report a fire in the 5500 block of South Meadowlark Avenue, near West Drexel Road and South Cardinal Avenue, said Tracy Koslowski, spokeswoman for Drexel Heights Fire District.

Callers said no one was inside; however, one man inside got out safely, although his hair was singed, Koslowski said. He refused medical treatment.

Crews took about 35 minutes to control the fire, but it still was smoldering an hour later, she said. The cause is under investigation and a damage estimate was not available.

March 27, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Jim Davis / Arizona Daily Star

I-10-area collision throws boy from pickup

Antonio Piery, 8, gets aid at the scene of a crash at West Silverlake Road and the I-10 Frontage Road. Authorities said Antonio was riding in the bed of a Ford pickup Sunday when a second vehicle hit the truck. The boy was thrown from the pickup but apparently sustained minor injuries, officials said. The neck brace was a precautionary measure.

STAR NEWS

It's a Tucson thing.

Arizona Daily Star
www.azstarnet.com

FUNERAL NOTICES

RICHARDSON, Marie L. A long-time resident of Tucson, passed peacefully on March 20, 2006, in Yuma, Arizona, at the age of 92. Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Richardson. Surviving family members include three daughters, Marguerite (Bill) Bean, Janet (Clifford) Carlson, and Alice (Floyd) Kennedy, and an extended family of 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. A gathering of family and friends will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, in the chapel at East Lawn Mortuary & Cemetery, Tucson.

SHIVELY, Betty A., 86, passed away on March 19, 2006. A native of Tucson, Betty was born on August 21, 1919, preceded in death by husbands, Richard Shively and George Atkinson. Survived by sister-in-law, Alma Bouchee and many nieces, nephews, cousins and other extended family. She will be greatly missed, but we celebrate her life.

Rescuers may have been exposed to toxins

By Carol Ann Alaimo

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

In a case that has rescuers baffled, seven Southern Arizona emergency workers were taken to hospital Saturday night for suspected exposure to hazardous toxins during what seemed a routine fire call.

Five Arivaca volunteer firefighters, and two Southwest Ambulance employees who came to their aid, were hit with symptoms including strained breathing, burning skin and tearing eyes after the firefighters extinguished a seemingly ordinary car fire on Pronghorn Avenue in Arivaca, about 40 miles south of Tucson.

"They had a reaction to something that was not normal from

a fire," said Chief Bill Bohling of the Green Valley Fire District, which sent its hazardous materials team to render aid when the stricken fire crew called for help.

Southwest Ambulance also sent personnel to the scene and two of them also were afflicted with some of the mystery symptoms, Bohling said.

The seven appeared to improve after they were decontaminated by Green Valley Fire personnel, Bohling said.

As a precaution, they were taken to University Medical Center and to St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson. All were released after doctors checked them over, the fire chief said.

Green Valley Fire personnel

later went looking for clues and examined the compact car that had caught fire to see if anything seemed out of the ordinary. But "we did not find anything that looked suspicious," Bohling said.

"We don't know what really went on out there," he said. "We were pretty confused."

Bohling said it was his understanding that the Arivaca firefighters were wearing protective gear, including breathing apparatus, as they battled the car blaze.

There was no response to phone messages left Sunday at the Arivaca fire station.

► Contact reporter Carol Ann Alaimo at 573-4138 or calaimo@azstarnet.com.

April 2006

Desert T

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT



by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Drexel Heights Fire District recently hired a new Battalion Chief to fill a vacancy in the department. The Battalion Chief positions oversee crews at all the stations on a shift. There are a total of three shifts and Battalion Chief Bryon Hopper has filled the position for B-shift.

Battalion Chief Hopper comes from Cheyenne Fire/Rescue and has over 26 years of experience in the fire service. He first became fascinated with the fire service during his freshman year at college. He took the "Introduction to Fire Science" class and immediately became interested in pursuing a career in the fire service. Battalion

Chief Hopper was not the only person in his family to take an interest in working for the fire department. His brother Pat is a Lieutenant with Cheyenne Fire/Rescue.

When asked what was Battalion Chief Hopper's favorite part of the job, he responded by saying, "The ability to make a difference in peoples lives; being able to influence the outcome of bad situations for

the better." No doubt he has been influencing people's lives for the better throughout his career.

Battalion Chief Hopper's most memorable fire was on December 27, 2004. The fire consumed a historic building in downtown Cheyenne, Wyo. The building was a former hotel and was built in the late 1800s.

Over 100 firefighters responded to the fire which ended up being a 27-hour long incident.

Battalion Chief Hopper has not only been involved in fire suppression efforts, he also plays a role in hazardous materials mitigation. He has 20 years experience as a certified Hazardous Materials Technician.

On a personal note, Battalion Chief Hopper moved to Tucson with his wife. Their daughter, who is a freshman at Colorado State plans to transfer to the University of Arizona in the fall. Together, the family enjoys watching high school sports—especially football, basketball and soccer.

Welcome aboard Battalion Chief Hopper!



Bryon Hopper, Drexel Heights' new battalion chief

Photo courtesy of Drexel Heights Fire Dist.

VOLUME 20 - ISSUE 06

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Health Fair "In Good Attendance" at Tucson Estates

by Erin Stobie

On Thursday, March 16, Tucson Estates residents had the opportunity to get glaucoma screenings, have their blood pressure taken and take a breathing test, as well as visit about 50 different health-related booths at the Tucson Estates Health Fair.

According to Pat Babcock, chairman of Tucson Estates Activity Club, the event offered "a lot of things that are of interest to people in this community."

Among the exhibitors were Curves, American Red Cross, University Medical Center, Juice Plus, Heartline and the Eye Institute of Southern Arizona.

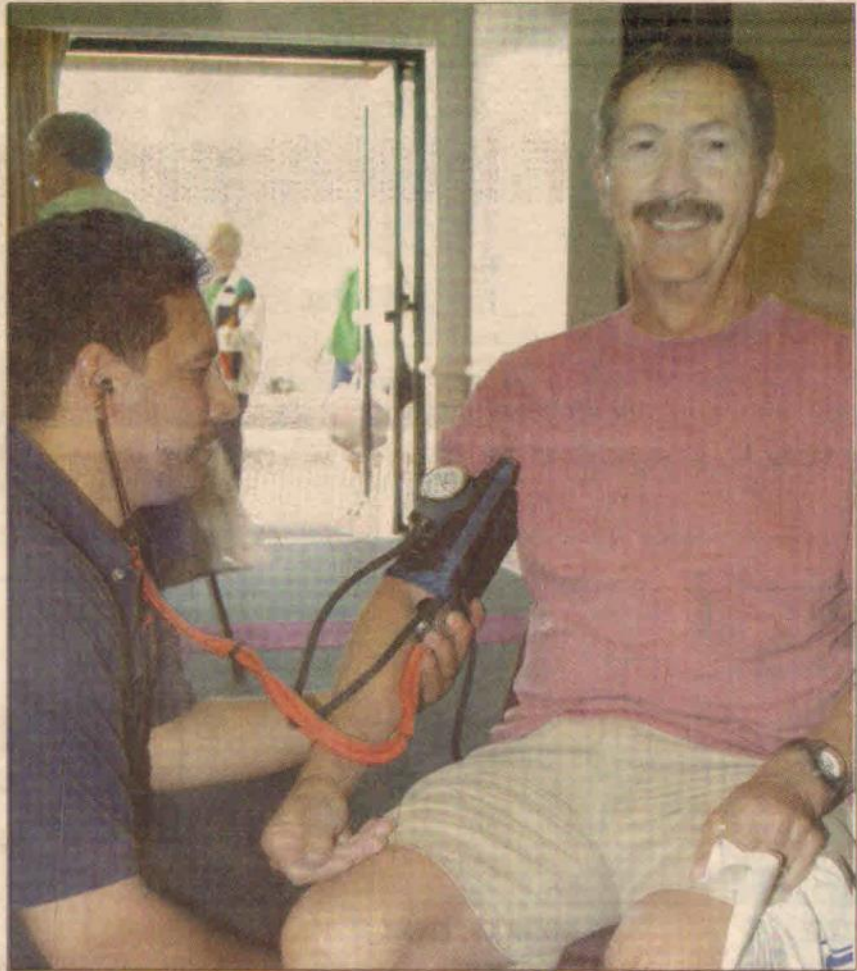
Perhaps the most beneficial aspect of the fair was the awareness it created. Attendees were able to find out what health services are available to the 55-and-older retirement community. This age group is interested in things pertaining to health issues, explained Babcock.

"I think it was very well received and in good attendance," she said.

The fair brought far more people this year than last. In 2005, attendance was between 200 and 300. At this year's event, there were at least 400 attendees.

The event hosted five different speakers who informed listeners about health care options. Subjects included lens implants, Medicare, cholesterol, aging and neurological problems, and independent vs. assisted living.

Although it is quite an undertaking, according to Babcock, the Activity Club hopes to sponsor the event again next year. Terri Joerg was the chairperson for this year's Wfair.



Sam Reynolds has his blood pressure taken by Drexel Heights Fire Fighter Andrew Sepulveda.



April 3, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Rescuers give early message on drowning prevention

By Becky Pallack
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Firefighters want parents to start thinking about water safety now, before kids start swimming this summer.

Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for kids younger than age 5 in Arizona, according to the Tucson Drowning Prevention Committee.

And while pool fences and other precautions are important, there is no substitute for adult supervision when it comes to preventing drownings, firefighters say.

Tucson already has had one near-drowning this year, when a 3-year-old boy was pulled from a pool on March 25. A fence bar was missing, and there were toys in the pool. Last year, one child drowned and seven nearly drowned, said Capt. Paul McDonough, a Tucson Fire Department spokesman.

Parents can check pool safety by making sure fences and gates are in good shape and toys are removed from the pool area. Parents also can talk to kids about pool rules, such as never getting in a pool alone.

All drownings are preventable and being prepared means knowing what to do before a drowning happens, firefighters say.

SEE DROWN / B2

DROWN

Continued from Page B1

Rescuers recall cases that stayed with them

Emergency calls for a drowning can be devastating for families and rescuers. Three Tucson firefighters recall some of their worst calls:

Capt. Rick L'Heureux

It still surprises him how the 6-year-old girl could have nearly drowned with a bunch of people all around, L'Heureux said, but the hardest part was answering his own kids' questions.

L'Heureux and another firefighter were off-duty, having fun with their kids at a public pool when they heard a ruckus.

The girl had been submerged for some time, and she was throwing up as water came out of her lungs. People were doing "wives' tale stuff" — holding her upside down, lifting her arms, anything to get the water out.

L'Heureux lifted her drenched T-shirt and put his ear to her back to listen to her lungs. He helped until paramedics arrived.

When he returned to his kids, they had serious questions. Why didn't the little girl know how to swim? And why did that happen? It was hard to answer, he said.

"You have to pay attention to your kids all the time," L'Heureux said. "Don't be fooled into thinking it can't happen to you because it happens to people just like you."

Paramedic David Acosta

He tried not to listen to the family or even make eye contact. If he did, Acosta said, his emotions might change, and he needed to focus on helping his patient — a 2-year-old girl who had fallen over in the tub while bathing with another child.

"My concern was, what's wrong with the child, what can I do to help?" Acosta said.

Police were corralling the girl's parents. They said her mother had stepped away from the bath to use the phone.

"I'm sure they didn't wake up that day thinking, 'Today I'm gonna let my kid drown,'"

he said.

Sometimes he feels helpless in the back of an ambulance when he's done what he can and he knows what the outcome will be, he said. The girl died.

"If you hear the parents when they're notified their child is dead, you hear the screams of horror and the disbelief when they expected you to bring them back to life ... that sticks with you."

"Always be within arm's reach of your children," Acosta said. If you have to step away, take your kids with you.

Capt. Andy Trujillo

When the 5-year-old boy went under water at a family cook-out, no one noticed. Someone walking by dived in, pulled him from the bottom of the pool and started CPR.

The bare-chested boy had blue skin and lips. His family was "completely panicked," Trujillo said.

When he and his crew arrived, the boy wasn't breathing. It was devastating.

"We tell them the truth," he said. "We say, 'Right now your boy is not breathing, but we're trying to help him breathe, and we're doing everything we can.'"

The boy lost his pulse, and rescuers performed CPR on the way to the hospital.

"It was back and forth until we delivered him to the emergency room, and I found out later that he had passed away," Trujillo said.

Families need to have designated pool watchers and know CPR, he said.

"It's not so much *if* it happens but *when* it happens," he said. "You need to be prepared to respond to that kind of emergency."

Contact reporter Becky Pallack at 629-9412 or at bpallack@azstarnet.com.



Acosta
attended girl who drowned in bathtub.



L'Heureux
witnessed one incident while at public pool.



Trujillo
recalls drowning incident at a family's cookout

May 2006

Desert

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager



Water Safety Tips

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of four in Arizona. Near drowning is also very tragic and can cause permanent brain damage. Drowning and near drowning can be prevented! Anyone involved with young children needs to be aware of how to prevent this tragedy.

the parent or adult caretaker is getting a towel. It is very important to remember to immediately empty the bathtub once the bath is finished. Children have also been known to drown in toilet bowls. A young toddler is inquisitive by nature and is drawn to any body of water, including the toilet bowl. With a toddler's head and body

weight distribution, a child that reaches into the toilet and falls in head first may not have the strength to lift themselves out and escape.

As pool season arrives, won't you take the time to learn CPR and other lifesaving techniques? Contact Drexel Heights Fire District for dates and times of the next available CPR class in your community. Post your local emergency number on your phones and consider installing a phone near the pool area. The number to call for emergency help in the Drexel Heights Fire District area is 911. And remember...



Always watch children around water!

Never leave your child unattended in or near a lake, swimming pool, hot tub, spa, bathtub, toilet or bucket of water, not even for a second. Make sure you keep toys, tricycles and other play items away from the pool or spa. Don't allow barriers, such as fences or walls, give you a false sense of security regarding your child's safety. There is NO substitute for adult supervision.

Make sure your pool or spa has an effective barrier, such as a fence, wall or locked gate that helps to guard against unauthorized access. Gates should have self-closing, self-latching mechanisms. Latches need to be out of reach of young children. Your pool or spa should have a barrier regardless of whether it is covered. Remember to always drain standing water off the cover of your pool or spa.

Children must also be supervised while bathing. Leaving a child in charge of a younger sibling is not acceptable. Many tragedies occur when the child is left alone in the tub for "just a few seconds" while the telephone is being answered or while

Adult supervision is the best approach in the prevention of drowning!

Drexel Heights Fire District in conjunction with Pima County Parks and Recreation will be hosting a water safety day in May called "Safe Splash." The community is invited to attend this event to learn some water safety techniques from lifeguards and firefighters. There will also be water demonstrations, tours of the fire engine and free safety reminder give-aways. Safe Splash will be on Wednesday, May 31 at 10 a.m. with open swim at 1 p.m. at Manzanita Pool (San Joaquin Ave & Irvington).

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the conference room of Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk Robert Bishman, Member James Bertrand, Member Laura Dailey and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

2006

May 7, 2006, DHFD:

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Certificate of Commendation



PRESENTED TO

*the Men & Women
of Drexel Heights Fire*

FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH
CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES OF A FIRE FIGHTER IN A MANNER
WHICH REFLECTS CREDIT UPON ALL FIRE DEPARTMENT PER-
SONNEL AND FOR DEDICATION TO THE PROFESSION ABOVE AND
BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

James Aldera
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Larry Cox
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Stanley C. Mead
POST ADJUTANT

Janet Albanese
POST COMMANDER

Morgan McDermott

POST NO. *7*

DEPARTMENT OF *Arizona*

May 7, 20 *06*

2006

May 8, 2006, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/crash-of-small-plane-leaves-hurt/article_3aaa2e96-a3ae-5077-ac95-0e1a26433b8e.html

Crash of small plane leaves 2 hurt

FAA INVESTIGATOR FLYING JUST BEHIND SEES CRAFT GO DOWN NEAR SAHUARITA

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May 08, 2006 12:00 am • By Erica Meltzer Arizona Daily Star

0

When a single-engine Cessna 150 crashed west of Sahuarita on Sunday, causing non-life-threatening injuries to two people aboard, an expert witness was on hand.

Bruce Bessette, an investigator for the Federal Aviation Administration, happened to be flying behind the Cessna as it approached the runway at Ruby Star Airpark.

Bessette said he was returning from a birthday trip to Patagonia with his 9-year-old daughter and her classmate. He was following the Cessna toward the airpark when it pulled off its approach, appeared to stall and crashed.

Flight instructor Peter Miller, 28, and passenger Roger Tamietti, 47, were taken to University Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman. No information was available Sunday on their condition.

The plane landed south of the runway on an empty house site in the 7600 block of Lost Emerald Lane, inside the airpark, which is located off McGee Ranch Road, west of Mission Road.

The two-seat plane went down a little after 9 a.m.. The Rural/Metro, Drexel Heights and Green Valley fire departments responded, as did Pima County sheriff's deputies.

The nose of the plane was smashed, the front wheel crumpled underneath. The windshield was broken, and a compass from the dashboard lay a few yards away.

After landing his plane, Bessette drove the girls home, then returned to the accident scene to investigate.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which investigates all civilian airplane crashes, is responsible for determining the cause.

May 8, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Water safety in spotlight at pool today

MAY 31, 2006 12:00 AM

The Drexel Heights Fire District is having a water-safety day for the public today.

The Safe Splash event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Manzanita Pool, on West Irvington Road near South San Joaquin Avenue.

The free event provides hands-on water-safety tips for parents and children.

The information includes backyard pool-safety information, rescue procedures and wash safety.

Families will be able to see and practice lifesaving techniques.

The event is co-sponsored by the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department.

Children will receive a water-safety coloring book.

~ WWW.RESCUELEADER.COM ~

AMERICA'S MOST UNCONVENTIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES



Fully deployed in under 40 seconds, the ADS provides OSHA compliant safe access for moving large or bulky equipment to and from roof storage compartments. Access to the rear extrication compartment is unobstructed and valuable body storage space is uncompromised.

IN THIS DAY AND AGE emergencies are not of the conventional variety, and your emergency response equipment shouldn't be either. Hackney custom builds the most unconventional emergency response vehicles in America to handle access and storage of the tools necessary to meet today's unpredictable missions. Hackney's patent pending Auto Deploy Staircase (ADS) provides safe access to roof storage and apparatus. The fully multiplexed ADS system allows deploying or stowing of the nested stairway in under 40 seconds with the push of a button. Whatever the challenges facing today's emergency responders, Hackney will lead the way with innovations to assist.

For more detail take a look at www.rescueleader.com.

Better yet, give us a call and let's discuss your needs.



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1 800 763 0700 | rescueleader@hackneyusa.com

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~ HACKNEY — THE RESCUE LEADER ~

CORPORATE PROFILES



HACKNEY CONTINUES TO BE SPECIAL OPS VEHICLES INNOVATOR

When it comes to Special Operations Vehicles for the emergency services providers around the world, Hackney continues to be the innovative leader, not only in features but, just as importantly, in value.

What makes the Hackney product most unique among its peers is use of its famous drop/pinch frame technology. This innovative feature is standard on all medium and heavy rescue bodies and trailers. By utilizing the traditionally wasted space behind the area where the frame rails normally reside, Hackney is able to increase useable and practical storage by as much as 30% within comparable wheelbase dimensions. In today's



environment where more and more specialized equipment must be transported to a given scene, that is critical to a successful and rapid response.

Storage space within a typical Hackney body or trailer is optimized by the use of simplistic cubes that permits simple arrangement of shelves and trays for quick, easy access to inventory. Up to 42" of compartment depth is provided from the lower floor to the top of the compartment.

Other features that increase storage capacity is the method employed for installation of the standard roll-up doors. All Hackney doors are integral to the body design, not add-on's. That means that the width of the door opening is the same width as the compartments from wall-to-wall. It also means that slide-out trays are maximized to the width of the compartment, unlike add-on type doors that require the slide tray to be reduced by as much as 5" to 6" in order to clear the door opening. And they don't stop there. Adjustable shelves are attached to channels recessed into the side walls rather than protruding into the work zones. Maybe that only garners another couple of inches, but today every

inch counts.

Introduced this year at the FDIC is the new Auto Deploy Staircase (ADS), so unique that it has a patent pending. The staircase was designed to permit safe access to the roof top storage compartments. The ascent and descent angle is very comfortable and the step surfaces are wide enough to permit safe use even with full turn-out gear and boots. The system deploys by the touch of a button and stows the same way. When deployed emergency personnel can still access the rear compartment without any obstructions. Most importantly, it does not consume any valuable storage capacity within the body, unlike staircases that consume as much as 30% of a typical rescue body.

All Hackney vehicles are fully multiplexed, providing great flexibility of options, system alerts, text messages, graphics displays and even incorporation of GPS. The text screen will also display vehicle information such as lubricates, fluid capacities, filter part numbers, serial numbers for engine, transmission and other key components and contact information for service and warranty. Use of multiplexing dramatically reduces the amount of wiring harnesses and terminal connections, which translates to significant reductions in system failures associated with older technology that employed multiple wiring harnesses and gobs of relays.

Hackney's degreed engineering staff employs Pro-E three-dimensional modeling software for the design of its vehicles, all of which are customized for the specific mission of its customer base which includes most all the major metropolitan areas of the United States. Use of Pro-E is another method employed, along with manufacturing efficiencies, that reduces cost and provides for the most economical special ops emergency vehicle available feature for feature.

Since Hackney focuses on nothing but Special Ops type emergency vehicles, they have become the leading experts in accommodating all types of special equipment. Regional Sales Managers are located strategically around the country that are available for face-to-face consultations and solving their customers problems with moving a vast amount of equipment with a single vehicle. Visit us on our information rich website or call our sales department toll-free at 800-763-0700. ●

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Washington, NC 27889 - USA
252-946-6521
rescueleader@hackneyusa.com
www.rescueleader.com

2006

May 19, 2006:



*To Our friends at Drexel Heights
Fire Dept.,*

*Thank you very much for participating
in our Family Storytime. We received many
wonderful comments, including one from a
5 year old girl that shouted, "Oh my God, that
was unbelievable!" Thank you, thank you,
thank you!*

*Sincerely,
Southwest Public Library*

2006

May 19, 2006:



May 31, June 1, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Water safety in spotlight at pool today

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Drexel Heights Fire District is having a water-safety day for the public today.

The Safe Splash event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Manzanita Pool, on West Irvington Road near South San Joaquin Avenue.

The free event provides hands-on water-safety tips for parents and children.

The information includes backyard pool-safety information, rescue procedures and wash safety.

Families will be able to see and practice lifesaving techniques.

The event is co-sponsored by the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department.

Children will receive a water-safety coloring book.

Pool rescue demonstration



KELLY PRESNELL / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Lifeguard Bradley Ledford stabilizes fellow lifeguard Brian Wood during a demonstration to teach children how to get a shallow-water-diving victim out of a pool on a spine board. The Manzanita Community Swimming Pool lifeguards and members of the Drexel Heights Fire District were teaching pool and arroyo safety, and demonstrating equipment and techniques used during water rescues. The event at the Southwest Side pool was co-sponsored by the Pima County Parks and Recreation Department and the fire district.

2006

June 5, 2006, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2006/06/05/14805-hundreds-here-without-power-after-storm/>

Hundreds here without power after storm

by A.J. Flick on Jun 05, 2006, under Local

 0  Recommend  0



A downed power pole rests on a fence near Sierra Madre Express, 4415 S. Contractor's Way, after strong winds brought down 23 poles in the area Saturday night.

Eighty-eight Tucson Electric Power customers were still without service this morning after a storm knocked out power for up to 70,000 residents Saturday.

The most severe damage was around Contractor's Way, an industrial area on the South Side off Alvernon Way, where 23 power poles fell, sheriff's spokeswoman Dawn Barkman said.

Sheriff's deputies evacuated six people from the area early Sunday morning, Barkman said. Five people refused to leave.

2006

June 5, 2006, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2006/06/05/14805-hundreds-here-without-power-after-storm/>

Contractor's Way, between Ajo and Irvington, was closed to traffic this morning and will remain so today so Tucson Electric Power crews could finish repairs, utility spokesman Joe Salkowski said.

The Tucson Fire Department was swamped by calls during the storm, said spokesman Capt. Paul McDonough, who estimated that up to 70,000 residents lost power.

The Drexel Heights Fire Department responded to several accidents but no serious injuries were reported, said spokeswoman Courtney Labukas.

Drexel Heights firefighters quickly contained a fire in the 3300 block of East Michigan Street caused by a downed power line in an alley that ignited fiberglass materials, she said.

Salkowski said TEP crews worked around the clock through the weekend to restore power to as many customers as possible. About 50 customers in the Contractor's Way area were without power Sunday night, Salkowski said, with about 250 other customers without power spread across the city.

For those who endured more than a day without power, having crews show up Sunday night to restore electricity wasn't much consolation.

Serena Schenker, who owns a motel on North Oracle Road, said she was unable to talk to a TEP employee until early Sunday morning. TEP was unaware that her neighborhood was affected, she said.

"It's very frustrating," said Schenker. "Our biggest concern is, what happens if there's a major catastrophe? There are scary things going on all over the country. They need to respond more timely."

Salkowski said TEP relies on customers to tell it about outages in some cases, but it's not typical that a customer has to wait hours to get through.

"We'll have to look into the problem," Salkowski said. "It may have been her phone system or ours, but we're not aware of widespread problems like this."

June 19, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

ATV collision injures 2 on the Southwest Side

JUNE 19, 2006 12:00 AM

Two men were seriously hurt Saturday night when the ATVs they were riding collided in the desert on the Southwest Side.

They were riding the ATVs at high speeds near the 6800 block of West Copperwood Way, near West Valencia and South Wade roads, around 7:15 p.m. when they crashed, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

Neither man was wearing a helmet. One man was unconscious when paramedics arrived, Koslowski said. He suffered life-threatening injuries and was flown to University Medical Center.

The other man was taken to a hospital by ambulance.

Their names were not released, but both are in their early 20s, Koslowski said.

Authorities were investigating the wreck and believe alcohol played a factor, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

The collision happened in an open area that has hills and dunes frequented by ATV riders, Koslowski said.

The injuries suffered by both men could have been greatly reduced if they had been wearing helmets, she said.

June 2006

Desert

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Meet some of your Drexel Heights Firefighters

Drexel Heights Fire District was incorporated in 1954. The department has produced some outstanding career firefighters. Here are a few that have been with the department for more than 20 years.

Assistant Chief Gary Bynum joined Drexel Heights Fire District in 1974 as a junior firefighter. He became a full-time employee in 1976. Bynum grew up in the Drexel Heights area. His most memorable call while working for Drexel Heights Fire District was in 1978 when American and Mexican firefighters were called to battle a fire that was destroying a whole city block. Bynum described it as a great experience in cross cultural teamwork and camaraderie. Working for Drexel Heights Fire District for over 20 years, Bynum has been involved with almost every facet of the department. He has been the Assistant Chief since 1998.



L to R: Gary Bynum, Alex Dunn, Dane Crouse, Steve Medina and Steve Campbell

Captain/Paramedic Steve Medina will have served 21 years with the district in July of this year. In college he suffered a second degree burn on his foot and spent some time in the emergency room. After watching firefighters bringing people into the emergency room, he felt his calling. Medina's "career call" is when he spent more than ten hours on the Old Tucson Fire tasked with providing a water supply from a hydrant five miles away. Medina currently serves on

the district's training, manning and public education committees.

Captain/Paramedic Dane Crouse went through the Drexel Heights Fire District academy in 1985 and was hired in February of 1986. A friend had originally recommended he test for the district because Crouse was unhappy with his management job at an office furniture store. From his first shift with Drexel Heights Fire District, he knew this was the job and career for him. Crouse is the Emergency Medical Services Coordinator and he serves on the training and public education committees. Crouse has also used his paramedic skills to work for Arizona Lifeline Helicopter.

Captain Alex Dunn was hired as a full-time firefighter with Drexel Heights Fire District in April of 1986. Dunn serves as the district's Safety & Wellness Committee Coordinator. He is used by his shift as a fire investigator to determine origin and cause.

He is also the coordinator for the district's Wildland Firefighting Program. Dunn's most memorable fire was when he was the company officer for the first arriving unit on the fire at Old Tucson Studios—one of the largest fires in Pima County.

Manager Steve Campbell has been employed with Drexel Heights Fire District also since April of 1986. His career in the fire service originated in 1978, when he was a firefighter for Aircraft Crash Fire Rescue in Grand Junction, Col. Campbell is now serving as the district's Communications

Manager.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the conference room of Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. All meetings are handicap accessible and with ten days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk Robert Bishman, Member James Bertrand, Member Laura Dailey, and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

2006

June 21 & 22, 2006, *Tucson Citizen*:

ZOKVIC
3117 West Holladay
Tucson, AZ 85746

Assistant Chief Gary Bynum
Drexel Heights Fire District
5030 Camino Verde
Tucson, AZ 85735

Gentlemen:

Once again I needed assistance from your company and they answered my call. I don't know how to tell you how much I needed their help but would send the enclosed check (#1617) to say a big thanks to those two men who came to my rescue. Thanks to the both of them!

Sincerely,



Joan Zokvic

2 hurt in rollover near Ryan Airfield

The Pima County Sheriff's Department is investigating whether alcohol was a factor in a rollover Wednesday evening.

Sheriff's deputy Dawn Barkman said a Honda sedan was heading south on Vahalla Road from Valencia Road, east of Ryan Airfield, at 6:51 p.m. when the driver lost control of the car. Both the driver and the passenger were taken to University Medical Center. The driver was ejected and had life-threatening injuries. The passenger's injuries were not life-threatening.

Barkman said investigators believe alcohol and/or drugs contributed to the crash.

The names of the two males were not available. They are both in their early 20s.

Drexel Heights Fire Department paramedics responded to the accident and transported the patients, said spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski.

She said that because of the weather and high winds, all medical helicopters were grounded and the patients had to be transported by ambulance.

— HEIDI ROWLEY,
hrowley@tucsoncitizen.com

Citizen
6-22-06

July 2006

Desert

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by David R. Stone, Drexel Heights Fire Marshal



Insecure: dangers of security bars

In cities and towns throughout the United States, crime-weary citizens have bolted immobile security bars over their windows hoping for an extra measure of personal security. However, these bars carry an often overlooked and quite lethal side effect: While they can effectively lock criminals out, they can just as effectively lock residents in.

Sometimes a device that prevents one hazard creates another. That can be the case with security bars, the metal bars that people put on their windows and doors for security. They do keep intruders out—but they also can trap residents inside in an emergency, and keep firefighters from getting in. About 15 people die each year because security bars trap them inside during a fire.

Sharon Gamache, executive director of the Center for High-Risk Outreach in NFPA's Public Education Division, stated, "Clearly, any steps taken to keep intruders out of a home can have the unintended consequence of trapping people inside the structure in an emergency."

Of the many tragic scenarios I've considered as a fire safety educator, the image of people trying to escape a burning home, only to be blocked by immovable security bars on their doors and windows, haunts me the most. To see and hear people dying and be unable to help must be unimaginable, especially for first responders willing to risk their own lives to save someone else's.

Recent news accounts serve as a stark reminder that metal security bars, designed to keep intruders out, can also keep occupants in during emergencies if they don't have a quick-release mechanism. Last year in Alabama, two adults and a 5-year-old boy were fatally injured when burglar bars on the back door of their single-family home blocked their escape. In Georgia, bars on the window of a four-unit residence blocked escape and impeded rescue efforts in an incendiary fire that claimed the lives

of two men and one woman. The victims were trapped in their rooms by the fire that was set in a first floor hall and bedroom.

The Problem

- People are afraid of being victims of crime.
- Because of this fear, many people blockade themselves in their homes using security bars and other security measures.
- Many security measures being used to keep criminals OUT are trapping residents IN during emergencies.
- Most fire deaths related to security bars occur in low-income neighborhoods where people are already at greater risk.

Solution

Quick-release mechanisms allow occupants to open the bars by pulling a simple handle, pushing a button, kicking a lever, or stepping on a floor pedal.

If you have bars on your windows, make sure they're equipped with quick-release mechanisms that everyone in your household knows how to use. Even if you don't have security bars, take the time today to find two ways out of every room of your home and practice this drill with every member of your household. A secondary means of escape can include a window or door that can be opened from the inside without tools, keys or special effort.

Use quick release devices inside all barred doors and windows. Quick-release devices for security bars enable you to push the bars open from the inside, but they don't affect the security provided outside. These quick-release devices can involve pulling a lever, pushing a button, stepping on a pedal or kicking in a lever on the floor.

Key Messages

- Know two ways out of every room.
- Use emergency release devices on barred windows and doors.
- Make sure everyone can operate release devices.
- Have working smoke alarms and test them monthly. Make an escape plan and practice fire drills in the home.

2006

July 12 & 28, 2006:

Department of Campus Recreation



Student Recreation Center
P.O. Box 210117
Tucson, AZ 85721-0117
(520) 621-4709
FAX: (520) 621-9973
<http://CampusRec.arizona.edu>

July 12, 2006

Dear Drexel Heights Fire Department,

On behalf of the entire "A" Camp Staff we would like to thank you again for coming to speak to The University of Arizona's Department of Campus Recreation "A" Camp this summer. It is people like you that help make the "A" Camp such a success. The parents who send their children to the "A" Camp are very appreciative of the fact that we try and put some fun education into their children's summer and we certainly appreciate you taking the time to come talk to us.

We certainly hope you will be willing to spend some time with us at the "A" Camp next summer and we look forward to having you back.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right, both appearing to be cursive.

Teresa Mortara and Ilona Rutjes-Gifford
Program Assistants for "A" Camp and Teen camp
(520) 621-8706
tmortara@email.arizona.edu
Ilona@email.arizona.edu

Department of Campus Recreation



Student Recreation Center
P.O. Box 210117
Tucson, AZ 85721-0117
(520) 621-4709
FAX: (520) 621-9973
<http://CampusRec.arizona.edu>

July 28, 2006

Dear Drexel Heights fire department,

On behalf of the entire "Teen" Camp Staff we would like to thank you again for coming to speak to The University of Arizona's Department of Campus Recreation "A" Camp this summer. It is people like you that help make the "Teen" Camp such a success. The parents who send their children to the "Teen" Camp are very appreciative of the fact that we try and put some fun education into their children's summer and we certainly appreciate you taking the time to come talk to us.

We certainly hope you will be willing to spend some time with us at the "A" Camp next summer and we look forward to having you back.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right, both appearing to be cursive.

Teresa Mortara and Ilona Rutjes-Gifford
Program Assistants for "A" Camp and Teen camp
(520) 621-8706
tmortara@email.arizona.edu
Ilona@email.arizona.edu

July 30, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:August 2006, *Desert Times*:

METRO BRIEFING

Toddler nearly drowns in pool at SW Side home

► An 18-month-old girl nearly drowned in a Southwest Side backyard pool Saturday afternoon, the third near-drowning here in the past week.

The girl was in a family pool in the 2900 block of West Roadrunner Road, near West Bilby Road and South Cardinal Avenue, around 1:30 p.m. when her parents turned away from her, said Drexel Heights Fire District Assistant Chief Gary Bynum.

When the parents turned around, they found their daughter underwater, Bynum said. They pulled the girl out of the water and saw she wasn't breathing. They ran to a nearby fire station at 5960 S. Cardinal to ask for help.

A firefighter was able to resuscitate the girl, Bynum said. She was taken to University Medical Center and was listed in stable condition, he said.

The family members were visiting the house, Bynum said.

On Tuesday night, a 3-year-old girl nearly drowned in a bathtub. A 5-year-old boy nearly drowned in a backyard pool July 23.

The Tucson area has had 11 near-drownings this year and one drowning.

Desert Times

August 2006

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Babysitting Program

Times have changed for older kids who want to start babysitting. Years ago, older kids began their babysitting careers by simply letting parents in the neighborhood know that they were available. The idea of getting training, certificates or other preparation was unheard of. How times have changed!

These days, there's far more publicity about safety concerns, with everything from they need to put babies to sleep on their backs to prevent sudden infant death syndrome, to the importance of using child car seats properly. That means that becoming a successful babysitter involves some preparation so that your son or daughter can assure parents that they can deal with the behavioral and safety aspects of the job, as well as any professional issues that might arise.

Drexel Heights Fire District now offers a Babysitting Program to participants ages 12 years and older. The program includes classes such as fire safety, kitchen safety, car seat safety, childcare, and responsibilities and ethics of babysitting. During the fire safety class, participants will get to use a real fire extinguisher. In the childcare class, they will learn how to diaper, feed and hold a baby. Participants will also learn how to develop a babysitting resume that they can use to look for a

job. The Babysitting Program also includes American Heart Association training in the areas of CPR and First Aid!

The program takes two days to cover all the above mentioned classes. At the conclusion of the program, participants walk away with a certificate listing all of the training and classes they completed as well as some safety items to take with them as they begin their babysitting journey.

Drexel Heights Fire District is offering the next Babysitting Program on August 2 and 3. The cost for the Babysitting Program is \$35 per participant. However, Drexel Heights Fire District residents receive a discounted price of only \$20 per participant with proof of district residency. For information, go to the Drexel Heights Fire District Administration offices at 5030 S. Camino Verde or call the offices at 883-4341.

The Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the conference room of Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk Robert Bishman, Member James Bertrand, Member Laura Dailey and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

2006

August 12, 2006, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2006/06/05/14805-hundreds-here-without-power-after-storm/>

Lifeguards honored for quick aid at crash

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August 12, 2006 12:00 am • By Aaron Mackey [arizona daily star](#)

0

When 16-year-old lifeguard Leandra Durham heard the screeching tires and crashing metal just outside the pool where she was working, she knew exactly what to do.

Durham, along with six other lifeguards at Manzanita Pool on the Southwest Side, sprang into action June 19 to help four victims of a three-vehicle wreck.

One lifeguard ran inside and told the pool's cashier to call 911. Others grabbed first-aid kits and ran to the wreck at West Irvington Road and South Jamaica Way.

Together the lifeguards stopped bleeding, stabilized the injured and waited for emergency crews to arrive.

When the paramedics got there, the lifeguards stuck around to see if they were still needed.

Two of the injured suffered non-life-threatening injuries and were taken to a hospital. The other two refused treatment.

For their help, the seven lifeguards were recognized by the Drexel Heights Fire District on Friday at the Manzanita Pool, 5200 S. Westover Ave.

The lifeguards did what they were supposed to do, said Drexel Heights Fire District Chief Douglas Chappell.

"It's wonderful that they had the caring and desire to help others," he said. "We don't see that happen very often."

While Durham welcomed the honor, she credited the lifeguards' quick response to their first-aid training.

"It was an adrenaline rush," said Durham, who hopes to be a paramedic someday.

"As a lifeguard you're trained to always be ready to apply first aid," said Grant Bourguet, who supervises the lifeguards.

Lifeguard Eden Vannoni, 18, said the response by the staff members showed that they do more than sit and watch swimmers. "It's nice when people see that we're actually there to help," she said.

I Brittany Brown, 17

I Leandra Durham, 16

I Evelyn Somoza, 17

I Elizabeth Starks, 17

I Eden Vannoni, 18

I Tyler Warshauer, 20

I Brian Woods, 16

Lifeguards praised for work at crash

by A.J. Flick on Aug 12, 2006, under Local

g+1

0

f Recommend

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0

8 youngsters cited for calm, proper response to 4 accident victims

A quick-thinking group of teenage lifeguards at Manzanita Pool earned the appreciation of a West Side fire district.

"The Drexel Heights Fire District and its firefighters are grateful that the Manzanita lifeguards acted professionally, gave care to the accident victims and remained calm in an emergency situation," Chief Douglas Chappell said Friday in giving award citations to the lifeguards.

Lifeguards Brittany Brown, Eden Vannoni, Elizabeth Starks, Evelyn Somoza, Brian Woods, Leandra Durham and Tyler Warshauer gave aid to four people with minor injuries after a three-vehicle crash June 19.

Somoza, 17, recalled that the lifeguards heard the crash at nearby Irvington and Joaquin roads and acted instinctively to help the four victims.

"I was nervous because I wasn't sure I'd be able to help," Somoza said, "but we kept the victims stabilized until the firefighters got here."

Marnie Green, 19, and other lifeguards kept an anxious crowd calm at the closed pool.

"There was a huge crowd out front, wanting to get in," Green said. "There were angry people, and they didn't understand why they couldn't get in.

"It was hard because even some of the lifeguards were emotional," Green said.

"These lifeguards are tremendous people," Chappell said. "We really appreciate how they went above and beyond the call of duty. It's a great opportunity to see young people going out of their way to help someone in an emergency situation."

Fire district spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said the lifeguards "did everything right.

"They called 911, they rendered aid and then, when the paramedics arrived, they stayed around in case they were needed."

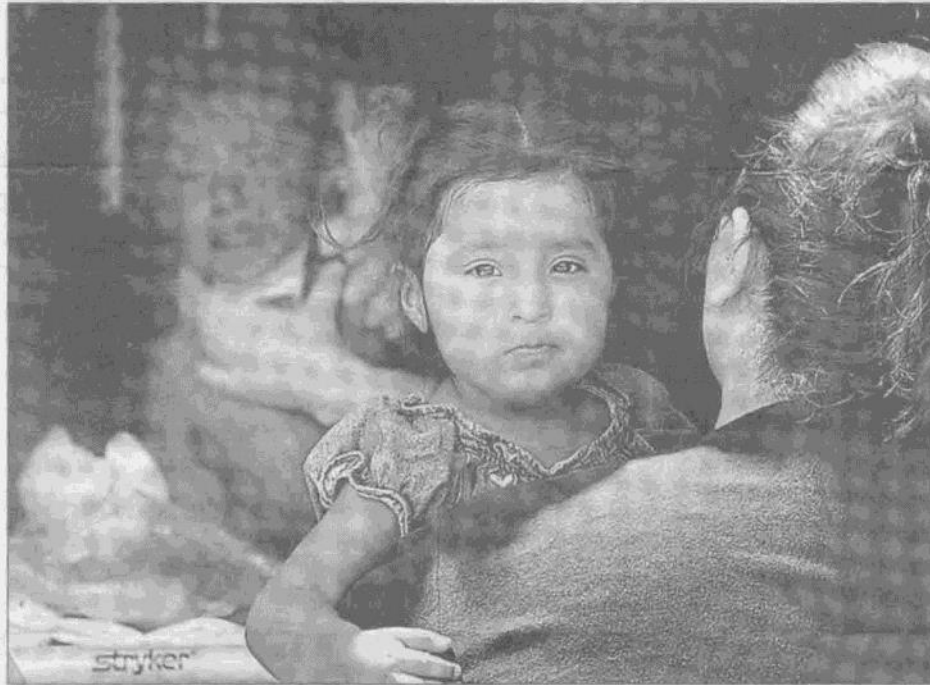
After the brief poolside ceremony, the Manzanita lifeguards happily joined other Parks and Recreation volunteers at a barbecue party.

August 22, 2006, *Tucson Citizen*:

2A/Tuesday, August 22, 2006

Tucson

Crash leaves 5 hurt



FRANCISCO MEDINA/Tucson Citizen

Clairessa Lujan holds an unidentified girl who was in a vehicle involved in a head-on collision Monday, while the girl's brother (in background) is checked by paramedics. **Below:** A Pima County sheriff's deputy checks the wreckage.

Collision shuts Valencia; van engine burns

By **DAVID L. TEIBEL**
and **HEIDI ROWLEY**
news@tucsoncitizen.com

At least five people were injured in a two-vehicle collision Monday that closed down Valencia Road west of Cardinal Avenue shortly after 1 p.m.

Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire Department spokeswoman, said a minivan and a sedan collided head-on on Valencia near Cardinal.

The van burst into flames, but the fire, confined to the engine compartment, was quickly put out, and none of the victims was burned, Koslowski said. The driver of the van was taken to University Medical Center with serious injuries.

Two children, both under the age of 5, were taken to UMC as a precaution. Koslowski said the



children were sharing the front seat and a lap belt when the air bag deployed.

Because the children were not properly restrained in the car, investigators were worried about their condition. The names of the injured were not released.

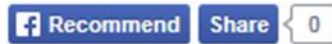
The Pima County Sheriff's Department is investigating the collision.

2006

August 24, 2006, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2006/08/24/23830-downed-lines-trap-20-in-cars/>

Downed lines trap 20 in cars

by Heidi Rowley on Aug 24, 2006, under Local



Downed power lines trapped about 20 people in their cars, including pregnant women, for more than two hours Wednesday night near South Mission and West Irvington roads.

As a result, the area near the intersection will be closed until at least this afternoon.

Tucson Electric Power Co. spokesman Joe Salkowski said a storm, which blew in about 6 p.m., put about 15,000 customers in the dark because of the downed power lines. At 10 p.m., about 5,000 remained without power.

About 104 customers were without power this morning and they likely won't have power for most of the day, Salkowski said.

TEP workers were replacing the seven poles that fell on an estimated dozen cars. No injuries were reported.

Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said it took about two hours for firefighters and utility workers to untangle the cars from the live wires. The storm was concentrated in that area.

Those trapped included several pregnant women and a woman who needed an oxygen tank.

Tucson fire Capt. Paul McDonough said firefighters passed an oxygen bottle to the woman through a window.

McDonough said members of two families got out of their cars after the lines fell on their cars.

"They were lucky they didn't get killed," he said.

One truck was abandoned at the scene and towed when officials couldn't find the owner.

Koslowski said a 53-year-old man was stranded in his car in the 2300 block of Old Ajo Way, near La Cholla Boulevard when water began rushing down a wash.

Koslowski said the man had a history of heart problems and was suffering chest pains.

A helicopter airlifted him to a hospital. He is expected to recover, Koslowski said.

McDonough said the Tucson Fire Department received 67 calls between 5:55 and 7:15 p.m. Of those, 44 were storm-related.

August 24, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:



JAMES S. WOOD / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Alberto Fierro, left, and Carlos Gonzalez inspect their home, which was demolished by a tree during a storm that pounded the Southwest Side on Wednesday. The 50-foot tree fell on the home in Plaza del Sol, a mobile-home park near West Ajo Way and South Mission Road.

Wind, rain hammer Southwest Side

By Aaron Mackey
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Evening thunderstorms hammered the Southwest Side on Wednesday, snapping utility poles and downing power lines that trapped 20 people in their vehicles for about three hours.

Winds in excess of 60 mph tore

through the area, bringing down a 50-foot tree on top of a home. The family inside rushed to get out after the walls were crushed.

The storm dropped nearly 2 inches of rain near West Irvington and South Mission roads in about a half-hour, while other parts of Tucson remained mostly

dry, according to the National Weather Service.

Thunderstorms are forecast again today as moisture continues to hang around the Tucson area.

Motorists trapped

About 20 people, including two pregnant women, were trapped in-

side their vehicles for about three hours while Tucson Electric Power crews worked to isolate the lines and turn off the power, said Joe Salkowski, a utility spokesman.

Firefighters also had to throw oxygen to one woman inside a

SEE STORM / A4

Forecast through Sunday

Highs in the mid-90s.

Partly cloudy skies

Chance of rain: 30-40 percent daily

August 24, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:**STORM***Continued from Page A1*

vehicle after her own oxygen tank ran out, said Capt. Paul McDonough, a Tucson Fire Department spokesman.

Carmen Araiza was driving south on Mission near Irvington with her husband and 10-year-old son when a huge gust of wind blew blinding dust across the road.

After the dust settled, utility poles began to fall, she said, scattering lines on top of vehicles. One line fell on the roof of her car, sparking several times.

"It was pretty bad," she said. "We're lucky we're OK."

The power was cut and the lines were removed from the vehicles about 9 p.m., said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

There were no injuries.

Mission was closed between Irvington and West Irvington Place and won't open until noon today, Salkowski said.

Crews hoped to open the northbound portion of Mission to both directions of traffic while crews continued to work on the damage in the southbound lanes, he said.

The storm knocked out power to 15,000 TEP customers throughout Tucson about 6 p.m. Power to all but about



LINDSAY A. MILLER / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A Tucson Fire Department firefighter checks on the occupants of one of 11 vehicles beneath live power lines that fell on top of them in the southbound lanes of South Mission Road just north of West Irvington Road.

2,000 was restored within two hours, Salkowski said.

The remaining customers were expected to have power restored overnight, though a handful would be without power today because of all the downed poles, he said.

The storm knocked down a 50-foot tree on a mobile home in Plaza Del Sol, 1655 W. Ajo Way,

displacing a family of five.

Carlos Gonzalez was inside with his sister, brother-in-law, and two nephews when the tree crashed into the home.

Gonzalez said his sister and brother-in-law were stuck underneath crushed walls, but he quickly pulled them out. The family was able to escape uninjured, though they were pretty

shaken up, he said.

"All of a sudden the roof's not there," he said. "It was crazy."

Several other homes were damaged by falling trees, in addition to several small fires in the area, McDonough said.

A 53-year-old man trying to cross a flooded wash in the 2300 block of West Old Ajo Road had to be rescued by helicopter af-

ter he complained of chest pains, Koslowski said.

A helicopter was able to land and take him to a hospital.

Tucson Fire responded to 44 storm-related calls in about an hour, including lightning strikes and arcing power lines.

Several intersections were without traffic lights, which caused problems for about an hour.

Rain elusive for some

While the storm dumped as much as 2 inches of rain on the Southwest Side, other areas barely saw a drop.

Washes along the Santa Cruz River near West Valencia Road recorded nearly an inch of rain, said Chris Rasmussen, a National Weather Service meteorologist.

While areas near Davis-Monthan Air Force Base recorded nearly half an inch of rain, Tucson International Airport recorded only 0.02 of an inch, he said. The University of Arizona recorded 0.01 of an inch.

Storms are forecast again today as highs will rise to the mid-90s.

The weekend is expected to bring highs in the mid-90s with thunderstorms possible.

► Contact reporter Aaron Mackey at 629-9412 or amackey@azstarnet.com

Downed lines trap 20 in cars

By HEIDI ROWLEY
hrowley@tucsoncitizen.com

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Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said it took about two hours for firefighters and utility workers to untangle the cars from the live wires. The storm was concentrated in that area.

Rainfall totals

Santa Cruz River at Valencia Road:
0.94 of an inch
Irvington Road at I-10: 0.59
Ajo Detention Basin near Palo Verde Road: 0.87
Irvington Road at Alvernon Way:
0.28
Houghton and Irvington roads:
0.31
Source: National Weather Service

Those trapped included several pregnant women and a woman who needed an oxygen tank.

Tucson fire Capt. Paul McDonough said firefighters passed an oxygen bottle to the woman through a window.

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September 1, 2006, *Tucson Citizen*:

Tucson Citizen

Community group's gala honors law officers, firefighters

HEIDI ROWLEY

Published: 09.01.2006

The Greater Tucson Leadership honored 16 law enforcement and emergency-services personnel during a gala Thursday that the group hopes will become an annual event.

The Above and Beyond Gala was held at the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, where recently retired Surgeon General Dr. Richard Carmona was the keynote speaker.

Those honored were:

- Airfield Firefighter Peter Arnold of the Arizona Air National Guard Fire Department. The youth mentor is a volunteer football and basketball coach. He also gives fire safety and career development lectures at Tucson schools.
- Sgt. Paul Castellano of the Arizona Department of Public Safety. He was instrumental in developing the DPS Motorcycle Squad for the Tucson freeway system and has written grants to replace aging radar units. He also coordinates the Citizens Academy in Green Valley.
- Ed Slechta of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Association. He recently retired after 40-plus years with the Department of Public Safety. He headed up the DUI Task Force and started a phlebotomist program for officers to draw blood from DUI suspects.
- Patricia Pruitt, firefighter with the Drexel Heights Fire District. She is involved with public education programs for her department and schools, and coordinates annual adopt-a-family programs and fundraisers for low-income families.
- Support Services Technician Bernadette Mycynek with the FBI-Tucson

Tucson Citizen

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- Support Services Technician Bernadette Mycynek with the FBI-Tucson

developed a summer program at Sunnyside School District for at-risk students ages 12-17 and is an accomplished speaker at U.S. Marine Corps and memorial events. He recently received an honorary membership to the Marines' Easy Company 13th Infantry Battalion.

- Senior Patrol Agent Jay St. Romain of the U.S. Border Patrol. He is a certified field training officer and was cited for setting an example by fundraising for multiple causes.

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

New fire rescue truck arrives

Drexel Heights Fire District recently purchased a 2006 Hackney Heavy Rescue truck. The vehicle was purchased with combination Domestic Terrorism Preparedness Grant and 2002 voter approved bond monies. Equipment for the vehicle was purchased with combination grant monies and general corporate spending. The new vehicle will be called a squad truck and will be located temporarily at Drexel Heights Fire District's Station #4 on Kinney Road.

The squad truck has many unique features that will support the specialized rescues the firefighters have to perform. The specialized rescues include: rope rescue, confined space rescue, collapse/trench rescue, swift water rescue, vehicle extrication and hazardous materials mitigation. In addition, this vehicle will respond to everyday emergencies such as structure fires, gas leaks and EMS calls. The squad truck will also respond to out-of-district hazardous materials as-

signments as part of the Pima Regional Hazardous Materials Team. The four-person cab has a built-in work station specifically for hazardous materials research and command capabilities.

The squad truck carries specialty equipment not normally carried on pumpers or ladder trucks. There is a 9,000-pound winch that is able to pull heavy equipment like a vehicle stuck in a wash. The truck has communications equipment aboard for confined spaces where portable radios will not work. It is able to assess weapons of mass destruction threats, including radiological emergencies. Other equipment on the vehicle allows firefighters to test for carbon monoxide in homes and for natural gas and propane leaks.



Photo contributed by Drexel Heights Fire District

The 2006 Hackney Heavy Rescue Truck recently purchased by Drexel Heights Fire Department.

Desert Times

September 2006

Lifeguards honored for aid at south side crash

By ERIN STOBIE
Desert Times

When the Drexel Heights Fire Department responded to a car accident on June 19, the last thing they expected to find when they arrived was a team of lifeguards giving first aid to the victims.

Six Manzanita Pool lifeguards were administering first aid to four crash victims and had already helped stabilize one of the victims with injuries to her rib cage when firefighters arrived.

The lifeguards were honored at an Aug. 11 ceremony at Manzanita Pool, 5200 S. Westover Ave. by their pool supervisor, several firefighters as well as the chief of the Drexel Heights Fire Department and a small crowd of spectators.

"In today's world, we recognize the fact that on a regular basis, our firefighters go to emergency calls and they see a lot of different situations, but most of the time, everybody stands back and stays out of the way," said Drexel Heights Fire Chief Douglas Chappell. "The Drexel Heights Fire District firefighters are obviously very grateful to the Manzanita lifeguards."

Lifeguards Leandra Durham, 16, Elizabeth Starks, 17, Tyler Warshauer, 20, Brian Woods, 16, Brittany Brown, 17, Eden Vannoni, 18 and Evelyn Somoza, 17 each received a certificate for their quick response and professional aid to the victims.

"They acted professionally with great care and concern for the accident victims," said Chappell. "They remained calm and acted appropriately."

Someone at the pool had had an accident beforehand, so the pool was cleared

out when the car crash occurred, giving the lifeguards a window of opportunity to assist the victims.

"It was good timing," said Durham.

The three motor vehicle accident occurred at the intersection of W. Irvington Road and S. Jamaica Way. Four people were involved including a 22-year-old female and 20-year-old female, who refused treatment on scene, according to Tracy Koslowski, Information Manager for Drexel



Erin Stobie / *Desert Times*

Drexel Heights Fire Chief Douglas Chappell presents an award to one of the lifeguards who helped at the June 19 crash.

Heights Fire District. A female, 26, had facial injuries, cuts and bruising and another female, 49, had pain in her rib cage area.

Durham said that she and the other lifeguards helped stabilize the woman with pain in her rib cage area and helped stop the bleeding on the woman with the head injury.

"There was another victim who had a cut on her nose and she was just really shook up, so we had to calm her down," said Durham. "We just did that until the fire department got there."

The accident was enough to get Durham thinking about going into the emergency medical field herself someday.

"It was a rush," she said. "I actually really enjoyed myself. An EMT or a firefighter would be an awesome job, I think, after

October, 2006, *Desert Times*:

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT



by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

During a recent Drexel Heights Fire District board meeting, fire board members adopted a resolution declaring October as Fire Prevention Month for the district. Firefighters are dedicated to reduce fire and injuries through prevention and protection education. One example of these efforts is their new safety education program which they will be performing for all the area schools.

Firefighter's theme for this year's safety education program is called, "Wizard of Cause." During the assembly, program characters will be looking for the wizard who will teach them important safety messages. The firefighters wrote the script and they will be performing the characters themselves. The program also includes music and a few special effects.

"We do these types of programs for the children because they get into it and they remember it," said Firefighter/Paramedic Molina who plays the Wizard.

Fire and life safety education efforts will continue beyond the school programs. Firefighters will be visiting neighborhood homeowner associations, sharing safety information. Drexel will host First Aid and CPR trainings, and they will visit homes to replace smoke detectors and smoke detector batteries at the request of residents. If you would like information about the programs Drexel Heights Fire District provides, contact the Administration Offices at (520) 883-4341.

Take some time this October and remember to make a plan ready in case of a fire. Knowing how to safely escape your home from fire and remembering to stay outside are

two important parts of the plan. Here are some other tips you should remember to prepare yourself should a fire strike your home:

1. Draw a diagram of the layout of your house.
2. Mark all the doors and windows on the plan.
3. Make sure you have at least two ways out of each room of the house.
4. Check the windows and the bars that might be on them to make sure they open freely.
5. Decide who will help small children or older adults escape.
6. Confirm you have smoke detectors in or near all sleeping areas and check them to verify the batteries still work. You can mark them on your floor plan.
7. Select a family meeting place out in the front of your home, a safe distance away from the house, so the fire department can identify you right away.
8. Decide who will call 9-1-1 from the neighbor's house.
9. Practice the plan with all family members regularly to make sure that in the event of a fire, everyone will get out safely.
10. Remind everyone not to go back inside for anything.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the conference room of Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk Robert Bishman, Member James Bertrand, Member Laura Dailey and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

October 15 & 29, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Neighbors Briefs

DOWNTOWN

Academic Scholars topic Wednesday

The Metropolitan Education Commission will host a discussion of the Arizona Academic Scholars Program from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library, Lower Level Meeting Room, 101 N. Stone Ave.

With help from area businesses and school volunteers, the program encourages students to complete challenging high school courses to prepare for jobs or higher education after graduation.

The public is invited to the discussion.

For more information call 670-0055 or visit the Web site www.tucsonaz.gov/mec.

SOUTH

Firefighters teach kids about safety

Firefighters from the Drexel Heights Fire Department are using the storyline of "The Wizard of Oz" to help educate children

about safety.

The education team has written a skit called "The Wizard of Cause" and has been visiting schools on the South Side to demonstrate safety.

The firefighters play the roles of the characters in "The Wizard of Oz" and work sound and video production.

Stagehands make scene changes "and there are even some flying monkey puppets," said a press release from Tracy Koslowski, spokeswoman for Drexel Heights.

The safety messages include: wear safety gear when riding an ATV; have a working smoke detector in the home; call 911 for emergencies; and buckle up when riding in an automobile.

"The program has gotten enthusiastic reviews from teachers and school administrators," Koslowski said.

Additional performances are scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday at Warren Elementary School, 3505 W. Milton St.; 12:45 p.m. Tuesday at Miller Elementary, 6951 S. Camino De La Tierra; and 1 p.m. Oct. 25 at Johnson Primary, 6060 S. Joseph Ave.

CENTRAL

Friends of Library book sale coming up

Friends of the Tucson-Pima

LAW & ORDER

Family of 7 unhurt after fire damages home on SW Side

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A Southwest Side family was displaced by a fire Saturday that caused about \$70,000 worth of damage to their home, a fire official said.

The Red Cross helped the seven-member family — four children, a mother, a father and a grandmother — find accommodations after their house was severely damaged by smoke, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire Department spokeswoman.

The Fire Department received the call around 1 p.m. and it took 18 firefighters about 35 minutes to extinguish the blaze in the 3100 block of West Calle Del Cerro, near West Valencia Road and South Camino De La Tierra.

The father and three of the

children were in the home at the time of the fire. They heard the smoke detector and called 911 from a neighbor's home, which is exactly what they should have done, Koslowski said, emphasizing the importance of having working smoke detectors.

"For this family, it could have been the difference between life and death," she said.

When firefighters arrived they found heavy smoke and flames coming from the eaves of the house, Koslowski said.

The fire started either in the laundry room or a nearby carport that had been converted into a storage area, she said.

A fire investigator was still at the scene Saturday night to determine the cause of the fire.

2006

November 9, 2006, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/hospitalized-as-fires-damage-homes-cars/article_796f744c-b3dc-5c1a-b356-b9211bce23dd.html

2 hospitalized as fires damage homes, cars

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November 09, 2006 12:00 am • By Alexis Huicochea Arizona daily star

[0](#)

Two homes were damaged and two people were hospitalized for smoke inhalation in fires that sparked Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon.

The first fire occurred in the 7500 block of South Placita De La Sombra, near West Los Reales Road and South Cardinal Avenue, shortly after 8 p.m., said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

A 43-year-old woman was home sleeping at the time when she heard her smoke alarm going off, Koslowski said.

The washing machine in the home apparently shorted out and caused the fire, which spread through the walls of the home, she said. The blaze consumed the laundry room, bedroom, garage and two vehicles.

A father and son who live nearby ran over to alert the woman, who was able to get out safely, Koslowski said. The neighbors had a fire extinguisher but they were not able to get much control over the multiple fires.

It took about 20 firefighters from the Drexel Heights, Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham fire departments 18 minutes to get the fire under control, she said.

The firefighters did rescue a cat from the garage.

The woman was taken to St. Mary's Hospital for smoke inhalation as was the 26-year-old neighbor who went to help. Both are doing well, she said.

Damage is estimated at \$200,000 for the residence and the vehicles.

The second incident occurred in the Tucson Mountains area in the 5600 block of West Circle Z Street, near South Kinney and West Bopp roads, Koslowski said.

At 12:46 p.m., a neighbor called 911 to report seeing smoke and flame coming from a mobile home, she said. Drexel Heights firefighters arrived on scene four minutes later and it would take 28 minutes before the fire was called under control.

The fire started in a gas line to the furnace in the home, causing \$75,000 in damage, she said.

No one was home at the time as the woman who lives there is currently residing in Seattle, Koslowski said.

No injuries were reported.

November 2006

Desert Times

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Drexel Heights Fire District's Safety Education Team

Part of the Drexel Heights Fire District's mission statement is to minimize the threat to life through education. To accomplish this goal, the department created a Safety Education Team. The team is comprised of firefighters who have a passion for public education. With October being declared as Fire Prevention Month, the Safety Education

stage hands that made scene changes. There were even some flying monkey puppets!

By using characters, puppets and music, firefighters gain the attention of the students so they can get their message across. Some of the safety messages included: wearing safety gear when riding ATVs, having a working smoke detector in the home, calling 9-1-1 for emergencies, and buckling up when riding in an automobile. The program has gotten enthusiastic reviews from teachers and school administrators at the schools the Drexel Heights Safety Education Team has visited.

Additionally, when the district received its new hazardous materials vehicle, the Safety Education Team was able to use the old truck for its programs. The truck received some new striping signifying its Safety Education Team use. All of the equipment for the characterization program can be transported from

school to school for the safety education programs.

The Safety Education Team also provides bike helmet, first aid, CPR, babysitting, mini-muster, car seat, smoke detector, fire extinguisher and many more safety programs for the community. To get information about these programs, call the Drexel Heights Fire District Administration Offices at (520) 883-4341.



Photo contributed by Drexel Heights Fire District

Drexel Heights FD members created a skit to teach fire safety.

Team has taken their "act" to the schools.

Firefighters are used in a characterization production format to educate kids about some very important safety messages. The Safety Education Team wrote a skit called "The Wizard of Cause." The program follows the "Wizard of Oz" theme, but incorporates safety messages. The Firefighters played the roles of the characters, plus worked the sound and video production. There were



Photo contributed by Drexel Heights Fire District

Drexel Heights Fire District's Safety Education Team recreated the look of this fire truck just for the education program that teaches kids fire safety.

November 7, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Family dogs kill Tucson toddler

Southwest Side boy, 2, left alone in yard, fatally mauled by two Rottweilers



BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Debbie Tenkate guides one of the Rottweilers involved in the deadly attack on the 2-year-old boy to a Pima Animal Care Center truck.

By Alexis Hulcochea
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 2-year-old boy who was left alone in the front yard of his Southwest Side home Monday morning was mauled to death by his family's two Rottweilers.

Luis Fernando Romero Jr. was pronounced dead at University Medical Center after his mother found him being attacked by the dogs outside of their home in the 6700 block of South Gila Avenue, near West Valencia Road and South Camino de la Tierra, shortly before 9 a.m., said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

Sheriff's Department homicide detectives are investigating Luis' death to determine what he was doing outside alone, how he got there and if there was any negligence or criminal activity involved, although there were no signs of foul play Monday morning, Barkman said.

Barkman gave the following account of the incident:

Luis was at home with his mother, Jessica Nuñez, and an older sister while his father, Luis Fernando Romero, went to the store.

Somehow, Luis managed to get out onto the front porch of the family's tan mobile home, where the two dogs began to attack him.

He was dragged off the porch into the front yard, where his mother found the dogs mauling him.

Nuñez grabbed Luis and ran inside, at which time the boy's father came home.

A 911 call was made from the home, but the caller hung up before anything was said, and by the time a dispatcher was able

For help

Pima Animal
Care Center:
743-7550

BASIC SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN AROUND DOGS:

- Don't approach an unfamiliar dog.
- Don't run from or scream at a dog.
- Stay still when approached by an unfamiliar dog.
- If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still.
- Don't play with a dog unless supervised by an adult.
- Immediately report stray dogs or dogs displaying unusual behavior to an adult.
- Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
- Don't disturb a dog while it is sleeping, eating or caring for puppies.
- Don't pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
- If bitten, immediately report the bite to an adult.

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE GETTING A DOG:

- Consult with a professional to learn about suitable breeds for your household.
- Dogs with histories of aggression are inappropriate in households with children.
- Be sensitive to cues that a child is fearful or apprehensive about a dog.
- Spend time with a dog before buying or adopting it.
- Spay/neuter virtually all dogs.
- Never leave infants or young children alone with any dog.
- Do not play aggressive games with your dog.

Source: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

SEE MAULING / A4

November 7 & 9, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:**MAULING***Continued from Page A1*

to call back, the family had left the home and was on the way to a hospital.

As Luis' parents made their way down Valencia, they spotted a deputy who was conducting a traffic stop near South Mission Road.

Luis' parents pulled up behind the deputy and got his attention.

"The deputy realized within seconds what had happened," Barkman said. "He sees that the child has a lot of blood on him and summons medical attention as well as a helicopter."

The Drexel Heights Fire District was first on the scene and found that Luis was unconscious and not breathing, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights spokeswoman.

As Luis was loaded into the helicopter to be flown to University Medical Center, he was lifeless, Koslowski said.

Luis was pronounced dead at the hospital.

The two adult male Rottweilers were taken into custody by the Pima Animal Care Center, Barkman said.

The Pima Animal Care Center has not had any previous complaints about those two dogs or about that residence, said Jerry Sanchez, enforcement operations supervisor at the center.

The dogs have been secured in a special area and will be held there until contact can be made with the owners, he added.

"Based on the behavior the dogs displayed during this incident, there is a concern about the safety and security of the public," he said.

The dogs were not contained and were being kept in the yard only by a wireless device, Barkman said. There were two other boxers on the property, but they were not roaming freely and they were not taken by Pima Animal Care.

Joanna Weeks, who has lived in the neighborhood for about 40 years, was brought to tears Monday morning when she learned that Luis was mauled to death, but she said she was not surprised.

"This doesn't shock me at all," said Weeks, who does not know the family. "I knew it was going to happen because there are dogs everywhere. People just let them run loose, and they are aggressive dogs. When you put a child in the middle of that, something is going to happen. This is so sad."

Weeks said she has called the Sheriff's Department to the neighborhood numerous times about dogs — hundreds of them — roaming the streets every day. She said she has also called Animal Control, but nothing has been done.

Past mauling incidents

► **June 2006:** A boy was attacked by five pit bulls that belonged to a neighbor. The boy was not seriously injured.

► **May 2006:** An elderly woman died a month after a dog chewed on her arm at an assisted-living home.

► **April 2005:** An elderly man lost his arm after being attacked by a retired sheriff's patrol and bomb dog.

► **November 2002:** A boy suffered serious bite wounds in a mauling by the family's mixed-breed pit bull.

► **August 2002:** A woman and her daughter were attacked by three pit bull terriers. Neither had life-threatening injuries.

► **August 2001:** A woman was bitten several times on the arms and back by her neighbors' dogs.

► **September 2000:** A man was severely injured when he was attacked by three pit bulls in an alley while doing yardwork. He died in December 2000 from injuries he suffered in the attack.

► **December 1999:** Two girls were bitten by a pair of pit bull terriers while walking to their grandmother's house. The girls were not seriously injured.

► **November 1999:** A woman mauled by two dogs on the Tohono O'odham Reservation died from injuries related to the attack.

► **May 1998:** A Rottweiler mauled and nearly killed a toddler while neighbors screamed for help and the child's mother slept.

► **September 1997:** A girl was attacked in a neighbor's yard by a Dalmatian and a German shepherd-chow mix. The girl received stitches on her face and hand, and fractured a finger.

► **August 1996:** A girl was mauled by two dogs as she walked with a schoolmate to her school bus stop. A neighbor heard the cries and threw herself between the girl and the dogs.

Compiled by Marlene Dekker

According to Weeks, the dogs that roam the neighborhood — some of which are strays and some of which are pets — follow young children to two nearby bus stops and have killed other neighbors' pets.

Sanchez could not say if the problem was as serious as Weeks said it was.

"There are strays all over town and we take every call as a priority, but we get such an abundance of them that it sometimes takes us awhile to respond," Sanchez said. "I can't say if there is a stray-dog problem in that area, but I do know that it is not centralized there."

► **Contact reporter Alexis Huicochea at 629-9412 or ahuicochea@azstarnet.com.**

2 hospitalized as fires damage homes, cars

By Alexis Huicochea

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Two homes were damaged and two people were hospitalized for smoke inhalation in fires that sparked Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon.

The first fire occurred in the 7500 block of South Placita De La Sombra, near West Los Reales Road and South Cardinal Avenue, shortly after 8 p.m., said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

A 43-year-old woman was home sleeping at the time when she heard her smoke alarm going off, Koslowski said.

The washing machine in the home apparently shorted out and caused the fire, which spread through the walls of the home, she said. The blaze consumed the laundry room, bedroom, garage and two vehicles.

A father and son who live nearby ran over to alert the woman, who was able to get out safely, Koslowski said. The neighbors had a fire extinguisher but they were not able to get much control over the multiple fires.

It took about 20 firefighters from the Drexel Heights, Pascua Yaqui and Tohono O'odham fire departments 18 min-

utes to get the fire under control, she said.

The firefighters did rescue a cat from the garage.

The woman was taken to St. Mary's Hospital for smoke inhalation as was the 26-year-old neighbor who went to help. Both are doing well, she said.

Damage is estimated at \$200,000 for the residence and the vehicles.

The second incident occurred in the Tucson Mountains area in the 5600 block of West Circle Z Street, near South Kinney and West Bopp roads, Koslowski said.

At 12:46 p.m., a neighbor called 911 to report seeing smoke and flame coming from a mobile home, she said. Drexel Heights firefighters arrived on scene four minutes later and it would take 28 minutes before the fire was called under control.

The fire started in a gas line to the furnace in the home, causing \$75,000 in damage, she said.

No one was home at the time as the woman who lives there is currently residing in Seattle, Koslowski said.

No injuries were reported.

► **Contact reporter Alexis Huicochea at 629-9412 or ahuicochea@azstarnet.com.**

2006

November 9, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*: Hector Munoz, Ian Robinson 1st on scene

Collision with bus kills truck driver



JEFFRY SCOTT / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Rescue workers pull the driver from a truck that was hit by an out-of-service Sun Tran bus at South Park Avenue and East Ajo Way. The truck's driver, who died of his injuries, was headed east on Ajo at 6:58 p.m. Wednesday when he ran a red light, and the westbound bus, which had a green left-turn arrow, hit the vehicle, causing it to flip, authorities said. After receiving cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the man was taken to University Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead, officials said. See story, B2.

Truck collides with bus, killing man

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A man died Wednesday night when the truck he was driving collided with a Sun Tran bus at a South Side intersection.

The bus was westbound on East Ajo Way and making a left turn onto South Park Avenue just before 7 p.m. when the truck — eastbound on Ajo — ran a red light, clipped the bus and rolled, said Lt. James Bentley, a force commander with

the Tucson Police Department.

He said the cause of the crash was determined by witness statements.

The driver of the Ford truck was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The driver's name was not released Wednesday night because his relatives had not been notified of his death.

The driver of the bus was not seriously injured and was taken to University Medical Cen-

ter for precautionary reasons, Bentley said.

The bus, which had no passengers, sustained minor damage in the collision, Bentley said.

The truck hit a green compact car after it rolled, Bentley said. None of the occupants of that car were injured, he said.

Only the westbound lane of East Ajo Way remained opened while emergency officials investigated the accident.

2006

November 22, 2006:

MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



4520 W. AJO WAY, TUCSON, AZ 85746 • (520) 883-0627

November 22, 2006

Drexel Heights Fire Department
5030 S. Camino Verde
Tucson, AZ 85735-8971

Dear Drexel Heights Fire Department,

Thank you for your generous donation to our Raffle Prizes at our 4th Annual Trunk-or-Treat, held on Halloween. Your business was acknowledged as donating to this Community Event, and because of your donation you helped make the event extra special for the over 700 people who attended. All who did attend enjoyed a fun, safe, and friendly Halloween evening.

On behalf of Mount Zion Lutheran Church, thank you again for your support. May you have a blessed, safe, holiday season.

In His service, and God bless,

Rhonda Warner
Rhonda Warner, Events Coordinator
email: mountzionoffice@aol.com

Rev. Daniel J. Valasakos
Reverend Daniel J. Valasakos

12-4-06 Thank you for your
presence, the light, & your
service to our community.
RW

November 26, 2006, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Possible bomb evacuates 6 in W. Side neighborhood

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Half a dozen residents in a Tucson Mountains neighborhood were evacuated from their homes Saturday for more than two hours after a suspicious package was found in a carport, an official said.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department has yet to determine if the package, which was exploded by police after being found in the 4400 block of South Bantry Lane, near West Bopp and South San Joaquin roads, was actually

an explosive device, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a spokeswoman. Its remains will be taken to a lab to be analyzed.

The bomb squad was called out to the neighborhood after a family called 911 at about 4:20 p.m. to report that they found what they believed was a bomb, she said.

Nearby homes were evacuated and a robot was brought in to blow up the package about 6:45 p.m. No injuries were reported and no significant damage was done in the process, she said.

Sunday 11/26/06

December 2006:

The PACE Children



7. Merion

Marisol Matz

Martha
Russell

BLEN

2006

December 25, 2006:

Tracy L. Koslowski

From: Jeremy S. Beatty
Sent: Monday, December 25, 2006 8:27 AM
To: Maria Hawkes; Tracy L. Koslowski
Subject: Adopt A Family

I just wanted to drop a little note to the two of you to thank you for all that you do with the Adopt-A-Family program here at DHFD. We delivered our gifts and food box to our family on 12-23-06 and for me, it was the greatest experience I have ever had at Christmas. Our family was a woman and her 4 children. They lost their husband, and father in a motor vehicle accident 8 months ago, so this Christmas is especially difficult.

During the past several years that I have been involved in delivering items to families during the holidays, I found that there are quite a few of these families who may not be as thankful as we would hope. There have been times where it has been difficult to be professional as I recall a particular family who we adopted for the holidays. This family had four children and when we arrived to deliver the gifts, there was a new Cadillac Escalade and a new Ford Mustang in the driveway that belonged to the family. It got even worse when we went inside to find the biggest television I have ever seen and a Christmas tree surrounded by gifts. When we arrived, the mother greeted us while everyone else sat around watching TV. We reluctantly gave the mother the gifts and never even got a simple "thanks".

Well, this year was certainly different. This wonderful family was definitely in need of some assistance. When we made contact with the mother, she was obviously overjoyed that their family had been chosen. FF R. Aguilera made the initial contact since as far as we knew she was Spanish speaking only. FF R. Aguilera informed me of her excitement and that in talking to her, she was only expecting one gift per child which in her words "was going to make their Christmas". But when she was telling us the kinds of things they needed she never mentioned an XBOX or an iPod. She asked for things like clothes and laundry soap... things they "needed". Lucky for her and her family... Firefighters tend to "overdo" things! When we arrived we just started unloading all of the gifts and food that we were able to provide them. The look on their faces was nothing short of a miracle. It was evident that the mother was fighting the tears of joy, and I'm sure of sorrow for her late husband. We let the children open one gift each while we were there. They were so excited and thankful! The little boy got a kick-ball so of course we all had to help him try it out! We spent the next hour just throwing and kicking the ball around with the whole family. The boy was so excited to be playing kickball with all of us. Since he is the only boy of the family it was apparent when we told him we had to leave that he really needed that male interaction. He seemed to be quite upset that we couldn't stay and play. That was certainly enough to rip anyone's heart out.

I thought about this interaction we had with their family all day yesterday, as I celebrated Christmas with my family. It was very humbling to me and I am forever grateful to be able to provide a good life for my children. Your hard work, dedication, and generosity truly made this Christmas special for me and the Gonzales family.

I took the liberty of inviting their family to my station for a BBQ on 01-08-07. I can't wait.

Thanks for everything.

Captain J. Beatty

January 2007

Desert

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT



by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Thanks for the community support!

Every year Drexel Heights Fire District receives assistance from the community for the Adopt-A-Family Program. During the holidays, Drexel Heights and other members of Local 3504 provided assistance to many families who were having difficulties during the Christmas season. This Adopt-A-Family program was launched in 1998 and has helped over 200 Drexel Heights families since its start. This year the firefighters were able to provide over 50 family members with food, gifts and happiness.

The Adopt-A-Family program wouldn't be a success without the help of such a gracious community. Special thanks to community partners such as Mountainside Village, Tucson Estates, Tucson Estates Foothills and Western Way RV for your many donations of toys and food again this year. Much gratitude also goes to Arnold and the employees at Chuy's on Valencia for providing the families with a night out at your wonderful restaurant.

Drexel Heights Firefighters of Local 3504 have organized several fundraisers over the years to help raise monies for the Adopt-A-Family Program. In the past, they have hosted golf tournaments and events at Laughs Comedy Club. Many individuals throughout our community contributed and helped support these events as well. Every contribution is always greatly appreciated.

Programs like the Adopt-A-Family would not exist without such donations. Additionally, Firefighters would like to remind you to start the year off right. Make sure your home has working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors are life-saving devices that give families a warning when danger is present. If you don't have smoke detectors, or your detectors do not work properly anymore, please contact Drexel Heights Fire District and a firefighter will come install new smoke detectors FREE of charge. Won't you make a New Year's resolution and commit to checking your smoke detector once a month to make sure your family is safe day and night!

For information on additional Drexel Heights Fire District programs, please call us at 883-4341. You can also check us out on the web at www.drexelfire.net.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the conference room of Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Robert Bishman, Clerk James Bertrand, Member Laura Dailey, Member Ron Greil and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

► What would you like to see in your community newspaper? Tell us about your story and feature ideas. E-mail us at news@tucsonwest.net.

2007

January 9, 2007, http://azstarnet.com/news/southwest-side-fire-burns-vacant-trailer/article_6d8354e8-a5fd-59b9-96aa-010cdb3c538b.html

Southwest Side fire burns vacant trailer

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January 09, 2007 12:00 am

[0](#)

A fire on the Southwest Side burned a vacant trailer Tuesday morning. No one was injured in the fire.

It may have started at an electrical outlet, but the cause is still under investigation, said Drexel Heights Fire District Battalion Chief Lee Rau.

It took 15 Drexel Heights firefighters less than 20 minutes to contain the blaze, which caused about \$5,000 worth of damage Rau said. A neighbor saw smoke coming from the trailer and called 911, Rau said.

January 28, 2007, http://azstarnet.com/news/local/crime/child-with-matches-started-house-fire/article_49a896a9-8700-5c5b-a62a-42f86a66d237.html

Child with matches started house fire

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January 28, 2007 12:00 am

[0](#)

A child playing with matches started a fire that burned most of the first-floor contents of a Southwest Side home Saturday morning and killed at least one dog.

No people were injured in the fire, which started shortly before 9 a.m., said Dane Crouse, Drexel Heights Fire Department battalion chief.

The fire caused about \$50,000 in damage to the home in the 7600 block of South Camino Escarpado, near West Los Reales and South Cardinal roads, Crouse estimated.

The upper floor of the house was mostly smoke-damaged, he said.

The home is a residence for foster children, Crouse said, but he did not know how many were home at the time the fire started.

One child was evaluated for possible injury but was not harmed, Crouse said.

A second dog who lived in the home survived the fire, but the condition of a third dog was not known as of Saturday afternoon, he said.

2007

January 26, 2007, Arizona Daily Star, January 28, 2007:

Arizona Daily Star

TUCSON & REGION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007 • SECTION B

Editor: Hipolito R. Corella / 520-573-4101 / metro@azstarnet.com

Girl, 4, hit, killed by backing SUV

By Alexis Huicochea

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 4-year-old girl died Thursday afternoon when her baby sitter accidentally backed over her in the driveway of a Southwest Side home, an official said.

According to the Pima County Sheriff's Department, the incident happened in the 5200 block of South Spencer Avenue, near West Ajo Highway and South Kinney Road, shortly after 2:30 p.m.

A 45-year-old woman was taking care of the girl — Adelita Camacho — and a 1-year-old child at the home and went outside to back a white Isuzu Trooper out of the driveway,

said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a sheriff's spokeswoman.

The initial investigation indicates that the woman was going to pick up another child and left the two children inside the residence while she backed the sport utility vehicle out of the driveway, Barkman said.

She was planning to load the children into the SUV after she backed out, but Adelita somehow slipped out of the house and got behind the vehicle.

As the baby sitter backed out, she heard a noise, Barkman said. She got out to find she had run Adelita over and that the child was underneath the SUV.

Adelita was flown to University Medical Center where she was pronounced dead at 3:20 p.m., Barkman said.

A grieving family member described Adelita as a "beautiful little princess" but declined further comment.

The baby sitter, whose name was not released, was not related to the child, Barkman said.

Since 1999, at least five children in Tucson have been injured by vehicles backing up, according to Janette E. Fennell, founder of Kids and Cars, a national nonprofit organization committed to pursuing safety for children in and around mo-

SAFETY TIPS

- Walk around and behind a vehicle before moving it.
- Know where your children are.
- Teach children that parked vehicles might move. Let them know that a driver might not be able to see them.
- Consider installing audible collision detectors or rear-view video camera.
- Be aware that it's more difficult to see behind a vehicle on steep inclines, and from large SUVs, vans and trucks.
- Teach your children to never play in, around or behind a vehicle.
- Keep toys and other sports equipment off the driveway.

Source: kidsandcars.org

tor vehicles.

Across the country, about 50 children a week are hit by vehicles backing up, she said. Of those, at least two a week die

from their injuries.

► Contact reporter Alexis Huicochea at 629-9412 or ahuicochea@azstarnet.com.

We're moving! Our first service in our new Church will be from 10 - 11:30 on 28 Jan.

Refreshments served after service

All Drexel Height employees invited to attend.

Barbara Sawyer

For Transitional Service

Date 28 Jan

Time 10 - 11:30 AM

Place MT Zion Lutheran Church on Ajo

Given by Church

Hope you can join us!

2007

January 31, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/01/31/40402-boy-nearly-drowns-on-west-side/>

Boy nearly drowns on West Side

by David L. Teibel on Jan 31, 2007, under Special



An 8-month-old boy nearly drowned in his bath this morning when his father left the bathroom, a Drexel Heights Fire Department assistant chief said.

A sheriff's deputy was first to arrive at the West Side home and may have cleared the child's air passage, said Assistant Chief Gary Bynum.

When fire department medics arrived, the deputy was carrying the boy, who was coughing up water and mucous, out to meet them, Bynum said. The medics took the child to a hospital.

The father told authorities he called 911 after he left the child for about five minutes and returned to find him lying face down in about three inches of water, Bynum said.

Authorities frequently warn people not to leave small children alone in water. Small children have drowned in toilets and after falling into buckets of water, authorities have warned.

The near drowning happened about 9:20 a.m. on West Calle Cisne, near South Cardinal Avenue and West Valencia Road, Bynum said.

Names of the child and his parents were not available this morning.

February 6, 2007, http://azstarnet.com/news/cigarette-sparks-house-fire/article_15f67a4c-51fa-58ce-9e6f-2b38df11562e.html

Cigarette sparks \$50,000 house fire

Print

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February 06, 2007 12:00 am

🔊 Loading...

A neglected cigarette sparked a fire and caused \$50,000 damage to a Southwest Side home Monday morning, an official said.

Just before 10 a.m., Drexel Heights firefighters responded to a blaze at a manufactured home in the 4200 block of West Medina Road, near South Camino de Oeste and West Valencia Road, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

When firefighters arrived, they saw heavy smoke and flames coming from the home, which can no longer be occupied, Koslowski said.

No one was injured and no other homes were damaged, Koslowski said.

When firefighters and law enforcement arrived the woman who rents the home told investigators she had left a burning cigarette in the house and when she returned the home was ablaze, Koslowski said.

Investigators are calling the cause of the fire accidental, Koslowski said.

February 17 & 19, 2007, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Boy, 4, burned as grill ignites gasoline vapor

FEBRUARY 17, 2007 12:00 AM • BY ALEXIS HUICOCHEA ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 4-year-old boy who was playing with gasoline at his home on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation suffered second-degree burns when a barbecue grill ignited the vapors on his clothing, an official said Friday.

The boy, whose name was not released, was playing in the backyard of his home in the 7800 block of South Camino Benem shortly before 6 p.m. when the incident occurred, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire Department.

He had been playing with gasoline and got close to the grill, which ignited the vapors that were on his body, she said.

The boy's family called 911 and when firefighters arrived the fire was already out, Koslowski said. It was not known how the family extinguished the flames.

The boy suffered second-degree burns on 30 percent of his body and was flown to a burn unit at a Phoenix hospital, Koslowski said. He was listed in serious condition Friday night.

Should an accident like this occur, the fastest way to put out a fire is to smother the flames or to stop, drop and roll, she said. The flames can be smothered with a blanket or jacket.

"Vapors are invisible and a flame doesn't have to touch you to ignite," Koslowski said.

"When parents are out in the backyard and kids are playing, it is important to keep chemicals like gasoline or barbecue fluid out of the reach of children.

"Children should also be kept a safe distance from the barbecue. This is a tragic situation for the family."

Man burns hands in trailer fire

FEBRUARY 19, 2007 12:00 AM

A single-wide trailer in Drexel Heights, southwest of Tucson, caught fire Sunday, causing \$20,000 in damage and leaving one man with minor burns.

The trailer, in the 7700 block of West Velo Road, caught fire after a space heater ignited the resident's couch, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

The resident tried to put out the couch fire before it spread, but he was unsuccessful and burned his hands, Koslowski said.

Three fire engines and two ambulances from the Drexel Heights district arrived after the fire was called in at 9:14 a.m., she said.

Two of the man's friends were in the trailer at the time, but they were uninjured, Koslowski said.

Drexel Heights fire investigators confirmed that the blaze was accidental and was caused by the space heater, she said.

Koslowski said the owner of the trailer will provide a place to stay for resident, who was renting the trailer.

2007

February 20, 2007:

NOTES/ACTION

AGENDA, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' HEARING ROOM

130 W. CONGRESS, 1ST FLOOR

FEBRUARY 20, 2007 9:00 A.M.

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **INVOCATION**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **PRESENTATION**

Presentation to the Drexel Heights Fire District of the National Award of Merit from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials for their Family Safety Program. (District 3)

Times

March 2007

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager



Drexel Heights Fire receives award for family safety program

Drexel Heights Fire District is committed to providing quality programs and resources to the residents of our community. With generous funding provided by Pima County Community Development Block Grant Program, Drexel Heights Fire District developed the "Family Safety Program" which benefits all family members of the Drexel Heights Fire District community. In 2006, the Family Safety Program received an Award of Merit from the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment. The award was presented to the fire chief by the Pima County Board of Supervisors at a meeting in February.

Drexel Heights is proud to be able to provide the Family Safety Program to the community for the fourth consecutive year. The program is the only one of its kind, in that it provides multiple safety programs. The Family Safety Program includes several classes, which are available to the community. These classes include:

- Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation or CPR

CPR training includes information on the causes of heart disease and how to recognize the signs of a heart attack. Hands-on training includes how to properly provide rescue breaths and chest compressions. This class is done in conjunction with the American Heart Association. These classes are also available to community members outside the district.

- First Aid Training

American Heart Association's first aid instructors will provide training on how first aid is administered while waiting for emergency medical professionals to arrive. This class

covers what to do if someone is choking, how to stop bleeding, techniques for heat related emergencies, plus much more. Participants receive a first aid kit upon the completion of the class. These classes are also available to community members outside the district.

- Car Safety Seat

District residents can make an appointment with a certified car seat technician. During the appointment, the proper car seat type for your child will be determined. Besides infant and convertible seats, booster seats are also necessary to properly restrain older children. The car seat technician will also explain how to properly install your child's car seat in your vehicle.

- Smoke Detectors & Fire Extinguishers

At the request of any fire district resident, a member of the district's fire prevention team will make a home visit to offer fire safety information. During this visit the fire district's representative may install a smoke detector and fire extinguisher for the homeowner. Residents will be reminded to check their smoke detectors every month. They will also learn when and how to use a fire extinguisher.

To find out more information about these programs, contact Drexel Heights Fire District's Administration offices at 883-4341, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the conference room of Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.

March 5, 2007, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Strong winds aggravate fires at two homes

MARCH 05, 2007 12:00 AM

Wind gusts of up to 41 mph over the weekend did more than muss hair and blow away picnic supplies.

They caused firefighters attacking a Sunday-morning mobile home blaze to take extra precautions to ensure an adjacent home and several autos didn't ignite, too.

The mobile home fire on West Elvado Road took an hour to extinguish, said Tracy Koslowski, spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire District. Three fire engines and two paramedic vehicles went to the fire.

Two adults were in the home when the blaze started, but they escaped uninjured, she said. The home was a total loss, with damages estimated at \$20,000.

The fire was accidental, said Koslowski, caused by a natural gas hot water heater that was hooked up to propane.

Twenty-one firefighters battled flames and the winds.

"There was another mobile home and a couple of vehicles adjacent to the home, and the wind was pretty strong," Koslowski said. "It was blowing in that direction. Not only did they have waterlines on the fire, but they had waterlines on those exposures (adjacent home and cars) as well to keep them from catching fire."

The wind also played a factor in a West Side house fire Sunday night, spreading the flames from the home's carport to its living room, said Capt. Paul McDonough, a spokesman for the Tucson Fire Department.

The house, located near Speedway and Interstate 10 in the 1000 block of West Delaware Street, suffered an estimated \$40,000 in damage, forcing a family of three to find shelter with relatives, he said.

No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire was under investigation Sunday night.

A pressure system over Tucson Saturday and Sunday was responsible for the higher-than-average winds, said meteorologist Mic Sherwood, with the National Weather Service here.

Average wind speeds in the Old Pueblo during February and March are between 8.1 and 8.6 mph, according to the National Climatic Data Center.

On Sunday, wind speed averaged 25 to 28 mph at Tucson International Airport, and they were expected to die down by last evening, Sherwood said.

2007

March 5, 2007, KOLD News 13:

Windy Conditions Spread Trailer House Fire

March 5, 2007 07:15 AM MST



Suleika Acosta KOLD News 13 Reporter

If you stepped outside at all today, it was hard to ignore how windy it was, in most parts of town. That has local firefighters now bracing, and preparing for the wildfire season ahead.

More than a gentle Tucson breeze, Sunday strong gusts of wind blew through the city, shaking street signs, flapping flags, stirring trees and causing mayhem for anything or anyone outside.

"I've been trying to hold on to my purse and hold on to my hat, trying to keep it together. Tucson is not usually like this, cold wind," says a woman waiting for the bus.

But these fierce winds are more than just annoying, they can be deadly.

"If a fire establishes itself in 30 to 40 mile per hour winds, there's really not a lot you can do to stop them," says Northwest Battalion Chief Dugger Hughes.

Fire danger is most intense in windy conditions. Hughes has helped battle some of the most deadly wildfires. He helps train fire teams to fight and manage wild land fires.

"It takes just one spark for a fire to become a really major problem within just a few moments," says Hughes.

That was the case in a trailer home fire Sunday morning. Flames engulfed the Southwest Tucson home in just minutes. Aggressive winds challenged crews to keep the fire from spreading to a home next door.

They were successful but they couldn't keep the fire from ravaging everything else in it's path.

Investigators say the fire started here in the trailer house but spread quickly in a matter of minutes to a nearby parked truck, with the help of 30 mile per hour winds.

"As soon as I stepped to the other side of the trailer, I saw the right front tire of my truck was on fire," says Warren Caho.

He lived in the trailer for 17 years. He and his house guest escaped the fire but his home and everything he owned are a total loss. He's grateful no one was hurt and will rely on his faith to get him through.

"Clean the mess up here and make it because there's no trailer there and the Lord will bless me and I will get another trailer," says Warren.

Investigators are calling the cause of that fire, accidental. A natural gas hot water heater was mistakenly hooked up to propane, they say that is the likely cause of the fire. The American Red Cross is helping Warren since he lost everything.

2007

March 9, 2007, *Tucson Citizen*:

March 9, 2007, KVOA:

3-year-old playing with lighter starts fire

A 3-year-old playing with a lighter started a fire Thursday that displaced a family of eight and caused \$50,000 in damage, a Drexel Heights Fire Department spokeswoman said.

The fire began around 1:30 p.m. in the 3100 block of West Calle Cisne, near South Pavo Real Place, where a couple were living with their adult daughter and her five children, said spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski.

The two older children were at school and the grandfather was at work at the time of the blaze, Koslowski said. The grandmother, mother and three children were at home.

Koslowski said family members, whose names she would not release, will stay with relatives while their house is repaired.

The 16 firefighters on the scene contained the flames to the bedroom and snuffed the blaze in less than six minutes, she said.

- RYN GARGULINSKI,
rynski@tucsoncitizen.com

3-9-07 Citizen

Ed Tribble Reports

Child playing with lighter sparks house fire

March 9, 2007 06:14 AM MST

 Child playing with lighter sparks house fire

Latest News more>>

Accused killer's girlfriend charged in death of young girl

Child playing with lighter sparks house fire

70-year-old hiker fell 40 feet to death

Missing 22-year-old's body found in lake by fisherman

News 4 gets fire training

More News more>>

West Nile victims propose prevention plan

Suicide watch for father accused of murdering daughter

Murder-for-hire trial jury selection delayed

DPS seeks witnesses of deadly I-10 crash

New program lets traffic violators work off fines

Potential jurors questioned in Bigger trial

Former neighbors of accused child killer speak out

Soldier counters media reports of gross negligence at Walter Reed

Texan honors soldier-brother's memory in song

TUSD loans laptop computers to some students

A 3-year-old child playing with a lighter sparked a fire Thursday afternoon that damaged his family's home.

As Butch Bradshaw surveys the damage to his Southside home, his family moves out what's left.

"All of our stuff-- we've been married 35 years-- all our pictures are all destroyed everything is gone," Bradshaw says.

The Drexel Heights Fire Department got the call about 2:30 PM Thursday.

"When we got here we had smoke and flames through the end bedrooms," says fire Captain Hugh McCrystal.

Firefighters say one of the five kids living in the house was playing with a lighter and lit a mattress.

Though firefighters had the flames out in minutes, it didn't take long to cause \$50,000 worth of damage.

"Most importantly we had no injuries, which is always our goal," McCrystal.

Neighbors say it's a reminder of the dangers of fires and how a small act of playing with a lighter can lead to big consequences.

"It's a real loss. It just shows how you can't be too careful," neighbor Charlene Gundry says.

For now the family is focusing on getting back on their feet.

They're thankful the fire didn't hurt anyone, including the family pets.

"I've got five little grandkids here that are very important to me. The house can be replaced, they can't," Bradshaw says.

2007

March 14 & 15, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/03/14/44912-10-acre-fire-may-have-been-intentionally-set/>

10-acre fire may have been intentionally set

by David L. Teibel on Mar 14, 2007, under Special

g+1

0



Recommend

Share

0

A brush fire that grew to 10 acres near the Pascua Yaqui Nation south of Tucson is expected to be fully contained by 2 p.m. today, a Drexel Heights Fire Department spokeswoman said.

A boy is being questioned by sheriff's deputies about the fire, which may have been intentionally set, spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said.

The fire caused no injuries and no damage to buildings, she said.

The blaze was reported by numerous people calling 911 shortly before noon.

Koslowski said the fire was burning near South Mark and West Corona roads, about a quarter mile north of the Pascua Yaqui reservation.

Eight firefighters from Drexel Heights and the Pascua Yaqui fire departments are trying to quell the blaze, Koslowski said.

Boy, 12, arrested on suspicion of starting brush fire



MARCH 15, 2007 12:00 AM • BY DALE QUINN ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A 12-year-old boy was arrested Wednesday after authorities say he lit a piece of paper and started a 10-acre brush fire on the South Side.

No one was injured and no buildings were endangered by the fire, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

The boy was arrested on suspicion of reckless burning and later released to his guardian, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County

Sheriff's Department spokeswoman. A deputy saw the boy running from the fire near West Corona and South Mark roads and caught up with him. The boy then admitted to deputies that he had started the fire, Barkman said.

The Sheriff's Department did not release the boy's name because he did not commit a heinous crime, Barkman said.

Several people in the area called 911 just before noon to report the fire after seeing smoke, Koslowski said.

The fire was under control by 2 p.m., she said. The nearest buildings were homes that were more than 100 yards away, Koslowski said.

Two Drexel Heights engines and a brush truck, along with a Pascua Yaqui Fire Department engine, responded to the fire. Eight firefighters — including two Pascua Yaqui firefighters — doused the flames, Koslowski said.

March 21, 2007, KVOA4 7 & Arizona Daily Star:

KVOA
TUCSON

NEWS 4

Lorraine Rivera Reports
Children find parents dead

A brother and sister returned home Tuesday evening to find their parents dead.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department tells News 4 they received a 911 call shortly before 7 from a home on Bosworth Field Way, near Cardinal and Valencia roads just south of Tucson.

The children, a 14 year old boy and 11 year old girl, returned home from school and were unable to get inside because the doors were locked.

PCSO's Dawn Barkman says the children then went to their aunt's house who lived nearby. She took the children back to the home with a set of keys, they went inside and found the mother and father dead in the bedroom.

The Drexel Heights Fire Department, the first emergency crews to respond to the scene, tell News 4 the two appeared to have suffered gunshot wounds.

Barkman says "We can speculate at this time it is possibly a homicide/suicide, but that's why the homicide unit is here to investigate further to see if that's actually the case." The couple was identified as John and Linda Sterrett.

Couple die, perhaps in murder and suicide

By Alexis Huicochea

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A mother and father were found dead inside the bedroom of their Southwest Side home Tuesday evening and authorities say it appears to be a murder-suicide.

John, 60, and 51-year-old Linda Sterrett were found dead after their son and daughter arrived home from school around 5:30 p.m. and were unable to get into their home, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, a Pima County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman.

The children, a 14-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl, went to their aunt's house nearby, returned with her and made their way inside, where they found their parents dead, she said. The incident was reported shortly before 7 p.m. and detectives were on the scene in the 7600 block of South Bosworth Field Way, near West Los Reales Road and South Cardinal Avenue, late Tuesday.

Barkman said that, while all signs indicate it was a murder-suicide, detectives are not ruling out the possibility that it could be a double-homicide.

There were no signs of forced entry into the home, she said.

Barkman did not know how the couple was killed. She did not know if sheriff's deputies had ever been called to the house before Tuesday evening.



Volume 14, Issue 1
Spring 2007

AFDANews

Drexel Heights Fire Receives Award for Family Safety Program

Page 15

Drexel Heights Fire District is committed to providing quality programs and resources to the residents of our community. With generous funding provided by Pima County Community Development Block Grant Program, Drexel Heights Fire District developed the "Family Safety Program" which benefits all family members of the Drexel Heights Fire District community. The District is proud to be able to provide the Family Safety Program to the community for the fourth consecutive year.

In 2006, the Family Safety Program received an Award of Merit from the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). Pima County Officials submitted the program to the NAHRO for its success in the community. The program targets low-income and at-risk families and has served 500 families. The NAHRO Award of Merit was presented to Fire Chief Douglas Chappell by the Pima County Board of Supervisors at a meeting in February.

The Family Safety Program is the only one of its kind, in that it provides multiple safety programs. The Family Safety Program classes include CPR training, first aid training, home safety, fire safety and car seat safety. The CPR and first aid training are American Heart Association two-year certifications. Upon completion of the program, participants receive safety resources such as face shields and first aid kits. The home and fire safety portion of the

program includes a home safety inspection and the installation of smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. The final component of the program is related to child passenger safety. Certified Car Seat Technicians check the installation of car seats and booster seats. If the family's seat has been recalled or damaged, the technicians will replace the seats. If the family does not have a safety seat one will be provided for the family. All of the programs include educational information and training. The goal of the program is to reduce the injury fire and injury risks to the families of the community.

DHFD Family Safety Program



Bound Tree Medical offers a full line of emergency medical equipment and supplies serving EMS providers, fire departments, hospitals, colleges and universities throughout the United States. By supplying products from hundreds of innovative manufacturers, EMS and other public safety professionals have access to the safest, most reliable and cutting-edge products on the market today - *all from a single source!*

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April 2007

Desert

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager



Community Safety Day

Drexel Heights Fire District and United Pima Firefighters 3504 are sponsoring the Fourth Annual Community Safety Day on Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Manzanita/Safeway shopping center on the northwest corner of Cardinal and Valencia. This vehicle display and safety fair is FREE to everyone.

The goal of Community Safety Day is to provide free safety information and to inform the community about injury prevention. This year the organizing agencies are partnering with Safe Kids Tucson to provide the latest in injury prevention programs. Some of these programs include Not Even For a Minute, a campaign that educates on the dangers of leaving children unattended inside a vehicle, especially in our desert temperatures. Another program is the Spot the Tot program, which teaches drivers to check around their vehicle before backing up for small toddlers who are difficult to see by just checking in the vehicle mirrors.

The safety fair will also have information and resource booths on: fire safety, car seat safety, poison prevention, bike safety, drowning prevention, home safety, free fingerprinting, bug and critter safety and much more. In addition to the information booths, there will also be vehicle displays such as: fire engines, race

cars, ladder trucks, ambulances and canine units. The event will also include mascots and a performance by the Singing Fireman Billy Scott.

In conjunction with the safety fair, the United Pima Firefighters 3504 will also be hosting a Salsa Standoff. Much like a chili cook off, this salsa competition will bring a variety of entries for everyone to try. If you're a salsa lover, come and taste all of the delicious entries. There will also be hot dogs, nachos and ice cream treats for the kids. All proceeds go to the Safe Kids Tucson Coalition for the purchase of injury prevention products.

Drexel Heights Fire District, United Pima Firefighters 3504 and Safe Kids Tucson would like to invite you to attend this year's event. For more information, contact the Drexel Heights Fire District administration offices at 883-4341 or check it out on the Web at www.drexelfire.net.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m. in the training classroom next to Station #1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, and arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Robert Bishman, Clerk James Bertrand, Member Laura Dailey, Member Ron Greil and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

2007

April 7, 2007:



*The Students and Faculty of the
Drexel Heights Fire District
Fire Fighter I and II Recruit Training Academy*

*Request the honor of your presence at a
Celebration
To commemorate the completion of our studies
and
The beginning of our careers in public service*

*Saturday, April 7, 2007 6:30 pm
Tucson Estates Foothills Recreation Hall
5700 West Lonestar Drive
Tucson Arizona*

Attire is Semi-Formal

*R.S.V.P. to Martha Ortiz
883-4341*



2007

April 7, 2007:

SEND THEM AN ANGEL

LORD, WHEN FIRES RAGE THROUGH THE NIGHT,
GUIDE THEM ON THEIR WAY.
PROTECT THEM FROM THE FLAMES THEY MUST FIGHT,
SO THAT THEY MAY LIVE ANOTHER DAY.

AND WITH EVERY NEW DAY THEY WILL LIVE,
THEY WILL CONTINUE TO ANSWER YOUR CALL.
TO GIVE THE GREATEST GIFT THEY CAN GIVE,
WITH THEIR DEDICATION TO PROTECT US ALL.

HOLD THEIR HAND WHEN THE HOURS GROW LONG,
WHEN THEY FEEL THEY HAVE HAD ENOUGH.
SEND THEM AN ANGEL TO KEEP THEM STRONG, WHEN THE NIGHTS
ARE WEARY AND THE DAYS ARE TOUGH.

WHEN A CHILD SCREAMS OPEN THEIR EARS,
SO THAT THEY MAY SAVE THAT SOUL.
WASH AWAY A MOTHER'S WORST FEARS,
AND RETURN TO HER THE CHILD
THE FIRE ALMOST STOLE.

LORD, SEND THEM AN ANGEL TONIGHT, TO PROTECT THEM AS THE
FLAMES GROW HIGHER.
KEEP THEM SAFE WHILE THEY CONTINUE TO FIGHT,
TO OVERCOME THE DANGER AND FURY OF FIRE.

WHEN AN OLD WOMAN GRASPS FOR BREATH,
LEND THEM THE COURAGE TO PULL HER OUT;
AND SAVE HER FROM AN EARLY DEATH,
IT'S WHAT THEIR JOB IS ALL ABOUT.

AND LORD, IF THEIR WORK SHOULD EVER
TAKE THEM FROM THIS EARTH,
SEND AN ANGEL TO HELP THEM SEE,
THAT FOR WHAT IT ALL IS WORTH
THEY WILL ALWAYS BE A HERO
TO THEIR ANGEL
AND ME.



**FIRE FIGHTER I & II
RECRUIT TRAINING ACADEMY
GRADUATION CEREMONY**

APRIL 7, 2007, 6:30 PM



**RECRUIT CLASS 06-01
GRADUATION AGENDA
APRIL 7, 2007 6:30PM**

WELCOME
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
INVOCATION

OPENING REMARKS
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

CLASS ADDRESS
CHIEF DOUGLAS E. CHAPPELL

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES
CHIEF DOUGLAS E. CHAPPELL,
ASSISTANT CHIEF GARY L. BYNUM
CAPTAIN BRIAN M. KELLY

CLASS ACHIEVEMENTS

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

SLIDE SHOW

CLOSING

**DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT
FIRE FIGHTER I & II
TRAINING ACADEMY
CLASS 2006-01**

DAVID ANAYA
JUSTIN ALVAREZ
RICHARD CORDERO
MICHAEL COSGROVE
KYLE ALEXANDER CRUZ
ANDREW GARCIA
MARTIN LUJAN
SEAN MCKENNEY
MICHAEL PNDLETON
KENNETH QUINN
ROBERT SANTORO
DEREK WISE

WE WISH TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK EACH OF THE
INSTRUCTORS AS WELL AS THE OFFICERS AND CREWS
WHO HAVE GIVEN SO SELFLESSLY OF THEIR TIME AND
EXPERIENCE TO ENRICH OUR TRAINING AND
EDUCATION.

**RECRUIT CLASS 06-01
R2W
READY TO WORK**

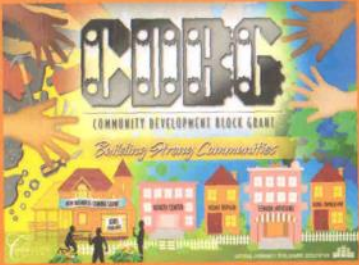
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN HALL

April 13, 2007:

Special Thanks To The Following For Their Assistance:





Bar-B-Q Ranch
 The Les Avenge B-Boy Crew
 CDBG Day Planning Committee:
 Al Kulwin, Pima County
 Alba Preisch, City of Tucson
 Cressworth C. Lander, The Dunbar Coalition
 Gerald Porter, City of South Tucson
 Gloria Soto, Pima County
 Leslie Hunter, City of Tucson
 Lucinda Abril, City of Tucson
 Monica Valdenegro, Town of Marana
 Shirley Hockett, The Dunbar Coalition
 T. VanHook, Town of Marana
 Yvette Hurley, City of Tucson

2007 Celebration of Southern Arizona CDBG Reception and Recognition Awards



Friday, April 13, 2007
 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
 Dunbar Project Auditorium
 325 West 2nd Street
 Tucson, Arizona

Event Sponsored by

National Community Development
Week

AGENDA

10:30 a.m. Registration

10:45 a.m. Entertainment by:
The Les Avenge B-Boy Crew

11:00 a.m. Awards Program


12:00 p.m. Lunch and Exhibits

Master of Ceremonies
 Richard Elias, Chairman,
 Pima County Board of Supervisors

Pledge of Allegiance
 The Les Avenge B-Boy Crew

CDBG Proclamation
 Ora Harn, Past Mayor, Town of Marana

Welcome
 Cressworth C. Lander, President
 Dunbar Coalition



Speakers

- Honorable Raul Grijalva U.S. House of Representatives, District 7
- Ron Barber U.S. House of Representative Gabrielle Giffords, District 8
- Eric Arvayo U.S. Senator John McCain
- Sharon Bronson Pima County Board of Supervisors, District 3
- Jose Ibarra Tucson City Council, Ward 1
- Peggy Hutchison CDBG Testimonial Speaker: Director, Primavera Foundation
- Gerald Porter CDBG Testimonial Speaker: Grants Administrator, City of South Tucson
- Lou Kislin CPD Program Manager, U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development


Presentation of Award Recipients

City of Tucson
 Sellers and Sons, Inc.

City of South Tucson
 Public Works Department

Pima County
 Drexel Heights Fire District
 Family Safety Program

Town of Marana
 The Drachman Institute



Program

CDBG: Building Strong Communities

May 2007

Desert T

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT



by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

BBQ Safety

Drexel Heights Fire District would like you and your family to have a safe and enjoyable summer of outdoor activities. In order to enjoy your summer of outdoor cookouts, remember to always inspect your grills before using them and follow some safety tips:

Approximately 30 people are injured every year as a direct result of gas grill fires. Propane is a highly flammable gas, and many grill fires occur when the grill is first used. Your risk of fire is greatly increased when your barbecue has been left idle for a period of time and after refilling or reattaching the propane gas container.

To reduce the risk of fire and explosion, you should follow a few simple safety tips. Before using your grill, make sure to check all the tubes that lead into the grill burner for any blockage. A pipe cleaner or wire can be used to clear blockages found. Check hoses for cracking, brittleness and leaks. Make sure to move gas hoses as far as possible from hot surfaces and dripping grease. Check your grill for gas leaks by following the manufacturer's directions. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the grill and do not attempt to light the grill until any leaks are repaired.

When it is time to light your grill, open the lid, turn on the gas and immediately light

the burner. Never use your grill indoors and keep any grill at least 10 feet away from your house or any building. Remember to never use your grill under any structures that can catch fire.

When storing your propane tanks, remember that they should always be stored upright and should never be stored indoors or near the grill or in direct sunlight.

Charcoal barbecues are very common. Remember that charcoal reaches extreme temperatures and can remain very hot for a long period of time. Always handle charcoal carefully. Drexel Heights Fire District recommends that you use charcoal that does not need lighter fluid.

You should never burn charcoal indoors. When it is burned, charcoal produces carbon monoxide, a colorless and odorless gas that can be deadly when inhaled. After enjoying your charcoal barbecue, remember that briquettes remain extremely hot, even after you are finished cooking. Hot coals can result in severe burns if not handled properly. When disposing of your barbecue briquettes, always make sure that they are completely cooled.

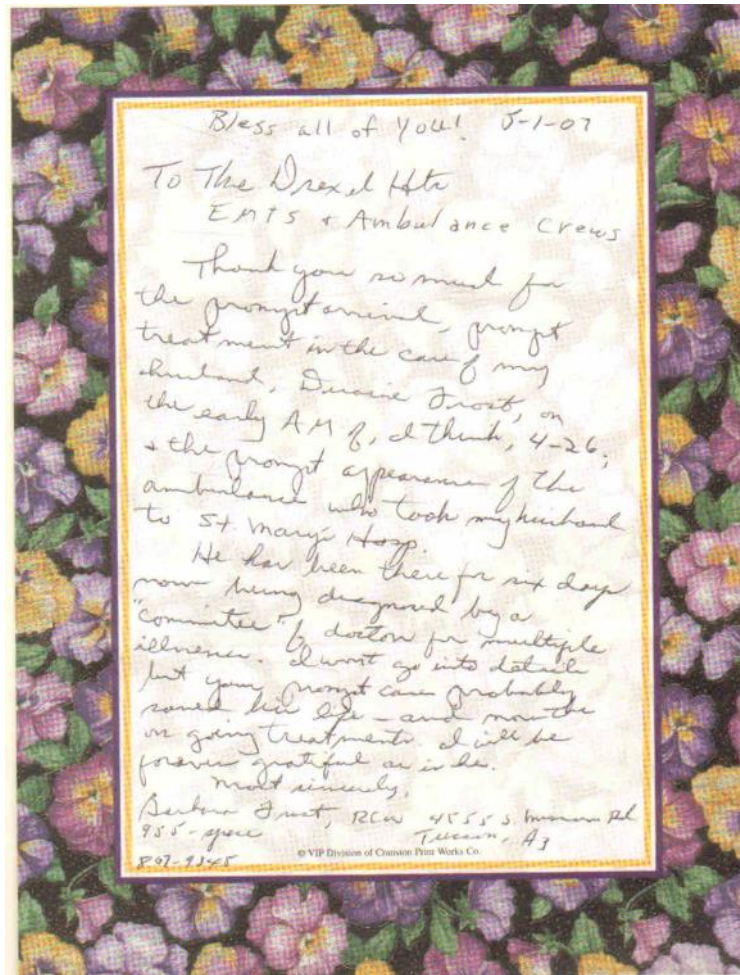
Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend.

May 1 & 2, 2007, Tucson Citizen

Your kind expression of
sympathy
is deeply appreciated
and
gratefully acknowledged
by the family of,

Mildred Hicks

Thank you so much
for the beautiful
flowers. Lloyd



Gas line rupture disrupts Southwest Side neighborhood

RYN GARGULINSKI

Published: 05.02.2007

Traffic was blocked off for more than three hours and residents barred from their homes after a gas company worker broke a natural gas line on the Southwest Side Tuesday.

The rupture occurred around 6 p.m. at the intersection of San Joaquin and Bopp roads when an El Paso gas company employee backed into a 30-inch gas line and ripped off a one-inch section, Drexel Heights Fire Department spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said.

She said El Paso was in the area replacing a line when it was ruptured by a backhoe and workers called the Drexel Heights Fire Department for help.

Koslowski said only one area resident was evacuated, but others were unable to get to their Northwest homes because traffic was blocked off surrounding the intersection while the line was repaired.

May 19, 2007:

THANK YOU!

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Golden Choice Catering
Lucky Linda's Casino Party Events
Tucson Estates Home Owners Association

DOOR PRIZE DONORS

Arizona Diamondbacks
Arizona Sonora Desert Museum
Cactus Cards & Gifts
Gaslight Theatre
Ingles Florist
Magpies Pizza
Medicaid Data Services
Mimi's Cafe
Old Tucson Studios
Peter Piper Pizza
Quail Canyon Golf Course
Valencia Ace Hardware
Vic's Corn Popper

Drexel Heights Fire District



MISSION STATEMENT

To minimize the threat to life and property due to fire, medical or other emergencies through education, prevention, preparedness, prompt response and effective customer service.

**Employee Recognition Dinner
May 19, 2007**

PROGRAM

Welcome
Douglas Chappell, Fire Chief

Invocation
Reverend Philip Dunham

Dinner, Casino and Slideshow

Opening Remarks
Douglas Chappell, Fire Chief

Service Pin Awards
Laurie Dunham, Finance/Administrative Manager

5 Years
Diane Baltazar
Jon Deyo
Chris Martinez
John McGinn

10 Years
Brian Kelly

15 Years
Ron Carter

20 Years
Scott Bird
Joe Bratton
Lee Rau

Special Presentations
Brian Kelly, Training Captain
Douglas Chappell, Fire Chief

Rookie of the Year
Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Safety Award
Douglas Chappell, Fire Chief

Professionalism Award
Dane Crouse, Battalion Chief

Supervisor of the Year Award
Gary Bynum, Assistant Fire Chief

Telecommunicator of the Year
Steve Campbell, Communications Manager

Administrative Employee of the Year Award
Douglas Chappell, Fire Chief

Firefighter of the Year Award: A-Shift
Hugh McCrystal, Captain

Firefighter of the Year Award: B-Shift
Mark Fiems, Acting Battalion Chief

Firefighter of the Year Award: C-Shift
Dane Crouse, Battalion Chief

Outstanding District Employee of the Year Award
R.M. Bishman, Board Chair
Douglas Chappell, Fire Chief

Closing Comments
Douglas Chappell, Fire Chief

2007

May 19 & 30, 2007:



The Board of Directors of
Drexel Heights Fire District
invite you and a guest
to attend our annual
Employee Recognition Dinner
on Saturday, May 19, 2007

Doors open at 5:00 pm
Buffet & Casino open at 5:30 pm
Tucson Estates Clubhouse
5900 W. Western Way Circle

Please RSVP to Administration
883-4341 by May 4th

Tucson Bicycle Classic

The Southwest's Longest Running Pro/Am Bicycle Stage Race
A Lance Armstrong Junior Olympic Race series

Dedicated in the memory of Garrett Lemire

Race HQ: 2140 E. 7th St, Tucson, AZ 85719 (520) 884-5564

web: www.tucsonbicycleclassic.com email: snsbohn@cox.net

May 30, 2007

Drexel Heights Fire Department
Attn: Tracy Koslowski
5030 S. Camino Verde
Tucson, AZ 85735

Dear Tracy:

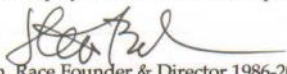
This is a heartfelt thank you once again for Drexel Heights FD's generous ambulance standby support for the 2007 Tucson Bicycle Classic. The 21st running of this event on April 13-15 drew 325 licensed racers from 20+ states across the US and Mexico racing in 19 different age and skill brackets for \$7200. After missing the 2006 season, the TBC was back on solid footing as a spring race. Since 1995 the Classic has been a Lance Armstrong Junior Olympic Race Series, giving young racers a chance to qualify for the Junior Olympic cycling team.

Without the generous support from local and regional companies, organizations and individuals like yourself, the Classic would not be possible. And because of your support, the Classic is able to donate proceeds to these local charities and organizations:

1. *Tucson Centers For Women and Children*, working toward the prevention of domestic violence, providing support groups, case management and shelter for over 1600 women and children and answering over 17,500 crises calls each year.
2. *The House of Neighborly Services*, providing after-school sports, activities and mentors to help kids and young adults find positive direction. Also, senior citizen aid, meals & support.
3. *The Brad P. Gorman Memorial Fund*, an advocate of bicycle safety and awareness, spearheading the Bicycle Safe Passing law in Arizona.

Thanks again for your support and we hope you will be back next spring for the 2008 Classic.

Sincerely,


Steve Bohn, Race Founder & Director 1986-2007
Race Promoter 2008

2007 Tucson Bicycle Classic Sponsors

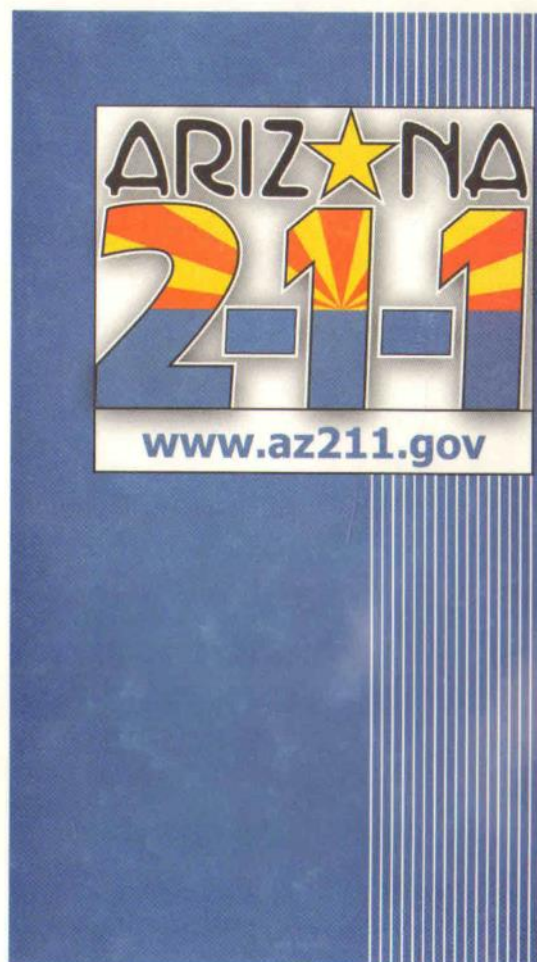
Title Sponsor: Artisan Prosthetics

Partner Sponsors: Southwest Shoulder, Elbow and Hand Center Time Market & The B-Line Restaurant Greater Arizona Bicycling Association Curtis Lueck & Associates First Magnus El Tour de Tucson Presented by Diamond Ventures

Support Sponsors: Reproductions, Inc Arizona Cyclist Law Offices of Nash & Kirchner, PC Timeless Pieces Buffalo Exchange Clear Water Systems Quizno's Old Tucson Tucson Inn Suites Hotel and Resort Tuller Trophy T-Mac Construction Ordinary Bike Shop Southwest Ambulance Drexel Heights FD Ambulance

2007

May 2007:



Arizona 2-1-1

Congratulates you on becoming an

*Official
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Because of your dedication and support of Arizona 2-1-1, thousands of Arizonans will connect to health, human services, and emergency resources. The State of Arizona appreciates your ongoing commitment and service to maintain accurate and useful information in the Arizona 2-1-1 database.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janet Napolitano", is written over a horizontal line.

Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona



May 2007

DESERT TIMES

TUCSON ESTATES • THE FOOTHILLS • THREE POINTS • ROBLES JUNCTION • SOUTHWESTERN TUCSON

FREE

Page 6

Eight fire emergency vehicles were on the scene, including three ambulances, and 16 fire district personnel, Koslowski said.

"We did deploy a hose line and had it ready to go in case an accident should occur as they were bleeding off the line."

The natural gas leak was reported shortly before 6 p.m. According to the sheriff department report, there was a loud hissing sound coming from the northeast corner of San Joaquin and Bopp roads.

Wheatly said El Paso followed their emergency response plan.

"We isolated the pipeline involved," he said. "We coordinated with Pima County, with the fire company, and worked with the sheriff department. We made whatever necessary notifications we do to the appropriate regulatory agencies."

The intersection was opened again just before 10 p.m., according to sheriff records. Fire personnel also stood by until the all-clear was given.

"There was a potential that if the gas found an ignition source, the gas vapor could have ignited," Koslowski said. "That would cause fire, flames, heat; it could spread rapidly."

"This was in a very rural area, mostly desert," she said. "We could have had a brush fire as a result of the actual pipeline burn-

ing."

Wheatly said El Paso's work on the pipeline was necessary due to population growth in Arizona and California.

"It's a longer term project that began earlier in the spring," he said. "We were doing some pipeline replacement. It's on the order of two less than two miles of pipeline that's being replaced."

"This was a very minor event in that sense," Wheatly said. "It involved a small leak on a pipeline that was isolated very quickly, and we responded very quickly to it."

It's not unusual for the fire district to get calls related to natural gas, Koslowski said.

"We get called out sometimes for the odor of gas, and we investigate for a gas line break," she said. "But it doesn't usually happen that it's an actual gas line break, just that we get called out for a suspicious odor."

"We would recommend that before someone is going to be digging any trenches on their property that they notify the gas and water companies," Koslowski said. "The utility companies will come out and mark where those gas lines are."

To comment on this story, e-mail news@tucsonwest.net.

► Do you want to write a letter to the editor? E-mail your letter to news@tucsonwest.net.

Residents evacuated, intersection blocked by gas leak

By KYNN BARTLETT
Special to the *Desert Times*

"Before digging in this area, please call El Paso Natural Gas," cautions the bright yellow sign at the corner at Bopp and San Joaquin roads.

But it was El Paso itself that accidentally caused a natural gas leak on March 1 while doing upgrade work on their thirty-inch pipelines that run through southern Arizona.

"This apparently resulted from a contractor working for us making contact with a one-inch line attached to the pipeline, resulting in a small leak," said Richard Wheatly,

media relations manager for El Paso, which is based in Texas.

The Drexel Heights Fire District and Pima County Sheriff Department shut down traffic in all directions for over three hours and evacuated two residents, according to sheriff department reports.

"They had to shut down the line and bleed it," said Tracy Koslowski, public information officer for the fire district. "It took about two hours to bleed it, because it is a major line that comes in from Texas."

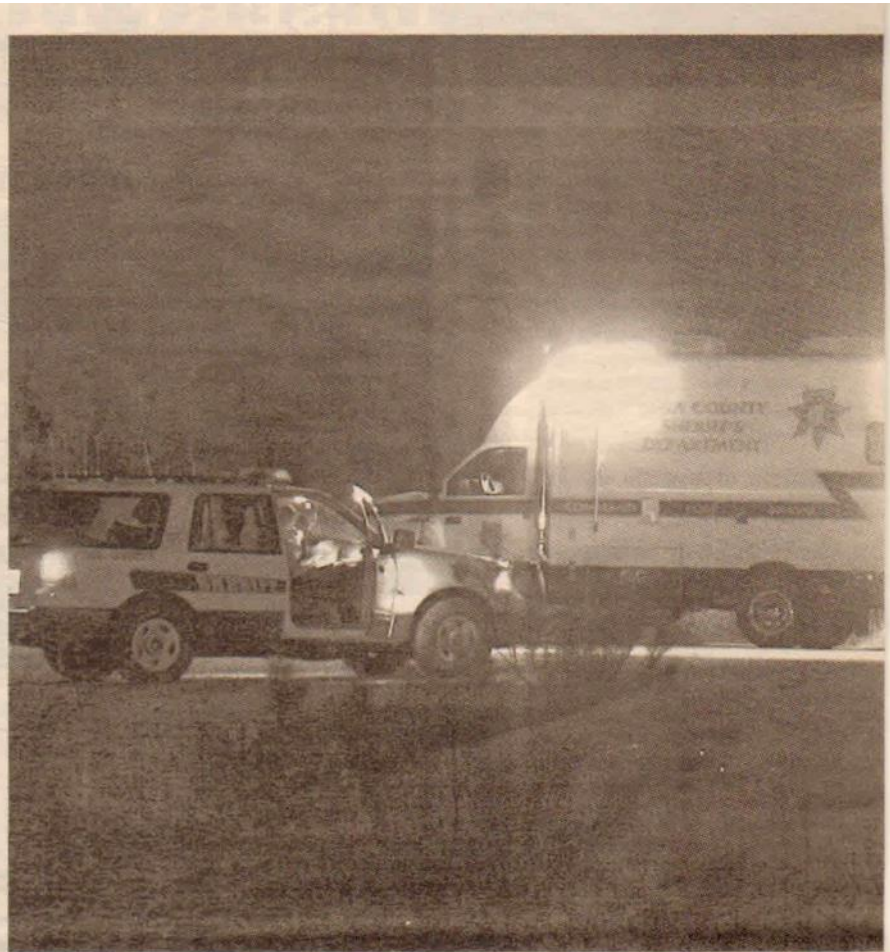


Kynn Bartlett / *Desert Times*
A sign warns against digging near a natural gas pipeline at the corner of Bopp and San Joaquin roads; the intersection was shut down for several hours due to a gas leak caused by a construction accident.

See LEAK Page 6

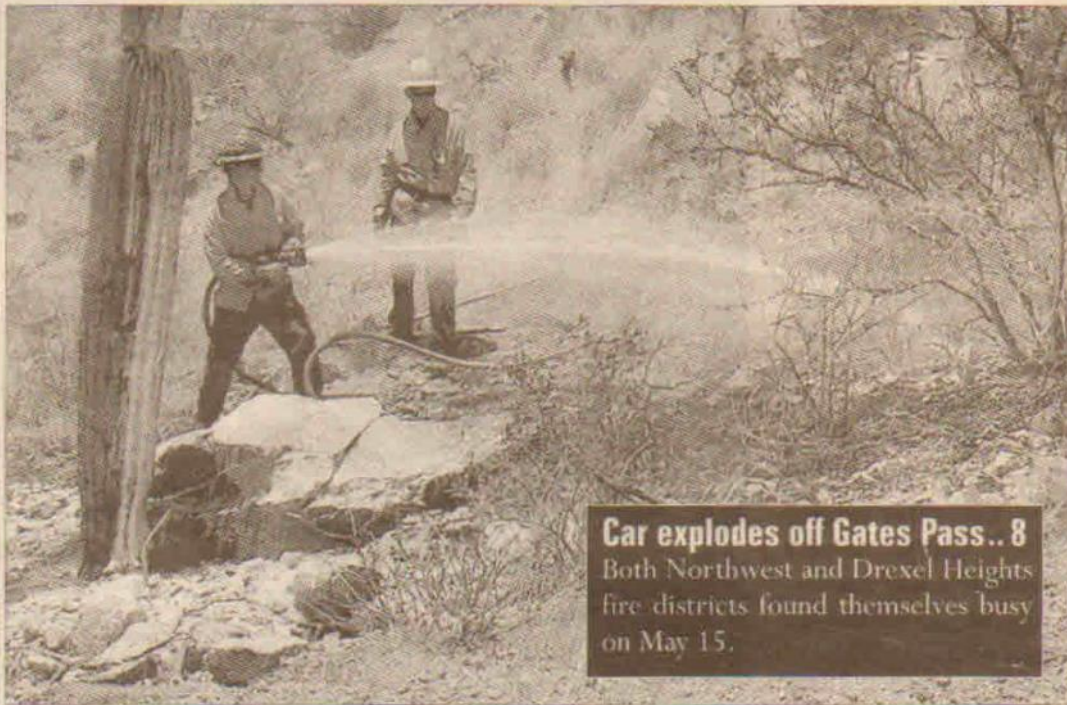
2007

June 2007, *Desert Times*:



Kynn Borlett / Special to the Desert Times

The intersection of Bopp and San Joaquin roads was shut down for several hours to repair a gas leak caused by the gas company's tractor.



Car explodes off Gates Pass.. 8
Both Northwest and Drexel Heights
fire districts found themselves busy
on May 15.

Stolen car explodes on Gates Pass

By KYNN BARTLETT
Special to the *Desert Times*

A stolen car rolled off the cliff at the top of Gates Pass early on the morning of May 15, and hours later burst into flames while being recovered from the accident site.

Traffic in both directions on Gates Pass Road was closed for over an hour at noon as firefighters worked to quickly shut down a 100-by-200-yard brush fire before it spread.

"The potential was bad," said Vince Baker, a board member of the Northwest Fire Rescue District who was on the scene. "If there had been any wind, it could have been very bad."

The Pima County Sheriff Department responded to a report of a car over the edge of cliff at 5:40 a.m., and discovered a silver Mitsubishi hatchback with temporary tags, upside-down on its roof about 75 meters down, said Dawn Barkman, public information officer for the sheriff department.

Deputies found nobody in the vehicle and no signs of injury, Barkman said.

"They green-tagged the vehicle and left yellow tape around it," she said. "The Tucson Police Department said they would make contact with the owner, because they now wanted to report it stolen."

An ambulance and fire crews from Drexel Heights Fire District were called out, but were cancelled before inspecting the vehicle, according to Tracy Koslowski, public

information officer for the fire district.

"The sheriff's department indicated it was an old incident and the engine was cold," she said.

The Mitsubishi was apparently pushed or rolled off the cliff. According to sheriff department reports, a tow truck from Frontier Towing was called out to recover the vehicle, and the tow truck driver said he could pull the car back up to the roadway.

A brush fire broke out during the recovery.

"As they were pulling it up, a spark ignited the brush, and the brush ignited the tank, and the tank blew up," said Baker.

"The car was totally destroyed, and they had a brush fire of about 100 by 200 yards before they got everything extinguished," said Katy Heiden, spokesperson for Northwest Fire Rescue District. The district had three fire vehicles and 10 firefighters on the scene, she said.

"In spite of the tough terrain, they were able to keep it contained and stop it from spreading down the canyon," Heiden said.

The fire threatened one saguaro, but firefighters worked to protect that cactus, Baker said.

"It was the buffelgrass that was on fire," he said. "A non-native invasive species."

Mark Dimmitt, director of natural history at the nearby Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, said this time it wasn't actually buffelgrass.



Photo submitted by Vince Baker

A tow truck recovers a car from the side of a cliff off Gates Pass Road; the car burst into flames upon being pulled up the hill, igniting a small brush fire.

"It was a very barren site," he said. "That other grass that was nearby was native."

There were no injuries reported by firefighters, Baker said.

Jim Mooney, co-owner of Frontier Towing, said it's hard to foresee everything that can happen when recovering vehicles that have rolled over.

"It was a vehicle that was heavily damaged and the fire department had not cut the battery cables as per the usual procedure," he said.

The report filed by the sheriff deputy on the scene attributes the fire to gasoline ignited by sparks caused by the vehicle scraping against rocks, and not battery cables. Neither fire district was involved in examining the car prior to the fire, according to representatives from Drexel Heights and Northwest fire districts.

Baker said fires sometimes result when cars are recovered from cliff sides.

"It happens," he said. "But I don't think we've ever had one blow up."

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT



by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Babysitting Program

Times have changed for older kids who want to start babysitting. Years ago, older kids began their babysitting careers by simply letting parents in the neighborhood know that they were available. The idea of getting training, certificates, or any other kind of preparation was unheard of. How times have changed! These days, there's far more publicity about safety concerns, with everything from the need to put babies to sleep on their backs to prevent sudden infant death syndrome, to the importance of using child car seats properly. That means that becoming a successful babysitter involves some preparation so that your son or daughter can assure parents that they can deal with the behavioral and safety aspects of the job, as well as any professional issues that might arise.

Drexel Heights Fire District now offers a Babysitting Program to participants ages 12 years and older. The program includes classes such as fire safety, kitchen safety, car seat safety, child care and responsibilities and ethics of babysitting. During the fire safety class, participants will get to use a real fire extinguisher. In the child care class they will learn how to diaper, feed and hold a baby.

Participants will also learn how to develop a babysitting resume that they can later use when looking for a babysitting job. The Drexel Heights Babysitting Program also includes American Heart Association training in the areas of CPR and First Aid.

The program takes two days to cover all the above mentioned classes. At the conclusion of the program, participants walk away with a certificate listing all of the training and classes they completed. They also receive some safety items to take with them as they begin their babysitting journey.

Drexel Heights Fire District is offering the Babysitting Program throughout the summer. Class dates include June 20 & 22, July 18 & 20 or August 6 & 8. The two-day sessions run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The cost for the Babysitting Program is \$10 for district residents and \$25 for non-district residents.

To register, visit our Drexel Heights Fire District Administration offices at 5030 S. Camino Verde. For more information about the classes, call (520) 883-4341 or visit www.drexelfire.net.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m. in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend.

June 7, 2007, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Help after shooting nets honor for three

By Nathan Olivarez-Giles

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Paul Anthony Naranjo's girlfriend walked out of the store and found him on the ground bleeding. She screamed.

Genevieve Morales was buying groceries with her son at a nearby meat market when she heard the wail.

Dora Arias, who was working the register where Morales was standing, heard the scream, too.

Martin Samaniego heard it as he drove by in his pickup truck, his son in the back seat.

Minutes earlier, Naranjo had been shot by someone who drove a silver SUV into the parking lot of the Southwest Side strip mall where he'd been shopping with his girlfriend and her two young children.

A crowd gathered.

But few did anything.

Until Morales and Samaniego moved forward, working together to give Naranjo, 30, CPR in front of Pima Liquors, next to the meat market in the 2800 block of West Drexel Road, near South Cardinal Avenue.

Arias reacted by comforting Naranjo's girlfriend's 2-year-old

See **HELP**, B2

HELP

Continued from Page B1

son, who'd been standing beside him when he was shot.

The Drexel Heights Fire District, which went to the scene with Pima County sheriff's deputies, will honor the three on Friday, for trying to help a man they never knew.

Paramedics pronounced Naranjo dead at the scene, but the bystanders gave him a better chance at survival and helped his family when they needed it in the April 18 incident, officials said.

Drexel Heights officials wanted to recognize the contributions bystanders can make in emergencies, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the district.

"I was like, 'Somebody do something,'" Morales said this week. "It seemed like nobody was doing anything, so I started to do CPR. It seemed like an eternity."

Morales' son, Marcos, 18, also tried to help, leaving the parking lot to find aid at the nearby Drexel Heights fire station.

But sheriff's deputies reacted to a car quickly leaving the scene of a shooting. They pulled Marcos over, guns drawn, Morales said.

After Marcos explained he was going for help, he was ordered to return to the parking lot.

"We put our lives in danger," Morales said. "I didn't think about it until it was over, but I wasn't even in the store five minutes before it happened.

What if we would have been the ones to have gotten shot, or what if whoever shot the man had come back?"

Morales, a medical assistant, said there was no time to think of the danger of the situation in front of her. She just reacted.

Samaniego, an off-duty emergency medical technician and firefighter for another agency, did the same, locking his 5-year-old son in his truck with the air conditioning on to do it.

"The only thing I regret was putting my son in an unknown safety situation," he said. "It's sad the man didn't make it, but it turned out safe for us, thankfully."

When Koslowski called to tell the three they would be honored with an award for their bravery, she said they all had the same reaction — surprise.

"They didn't think they needed any recognition, but it's a neat thing to be able to honor these citizens who just stepped up to help," she said. "They weren't related to the man, they weren't his friends, they didn't know him and it didn't matter."

Sheriff's Department reports said witnesses saw a pair of men in red hats and shorts or pants with white shirts fire at Naranjo before leaving in a silver SUV.

Anyone with information on the shooting is asked to call 911 or 88-CRIME, the anonymous tip line of the Pima County Attorney's Office.

► Contact reporter Nathan Olivarez-Giles at 307-0579 or at nolivarezgiles@azstarnet.com.

June 7, 2007, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Scroggs headlining fundraiser

Local paramedic/firefighter also coordinating entertainment for Red Cross benefit

By Cathalena E. Burch
CBURCH@AZSTAR.NET.COM

Rural Metro paramedic/firefighter Billy Scroggs is still getting used to the fact that he'll be the star of the show at a benefit concert Saturday night.

"It's kinda weird," he demurred. "I don't see myself as a headliner."

But how could he refuse a call

from his brothers and sisters in uniform, firefighters from throughout the area who are raising money for the American Red Cross?

In the end, the Tucson native ended up not just headlining the concert, but coordinating the entertainment, too. The Drexel Heights Fire Department will provide the comic relief, and musicians in the Tucson Fire Department will perform. Pop-rock singer/songwriter Scott Robb will front a band representing his department at Golder Ranch. Robert Moreno and his band will represent the Three Points department.

"We haven't really done a whole lot of benefits, but as a firefighter I thought it was a good idea to get involved," said Moreno, a regular at The Maverick — King of Clubs. "We use our talents a lot to make money and keep playing for the passion. But it's important to give back."

Scroggs, who came in second earlier this year on CMT's "Music City Madness" video contest, said: "I'm excited. It's going to be fun because you've got numerous fire departments just jumping up and down to be part of this. Not only do we show up when you need us, but we can entertain you, as well."

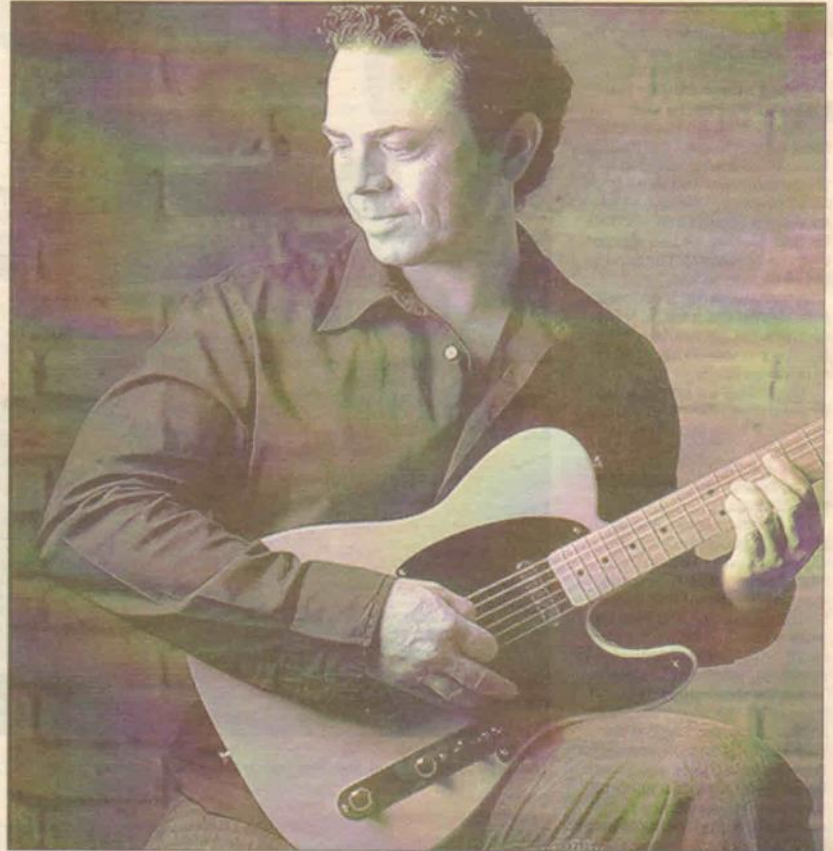
Scroggs is a natural choice to lead the event. In addition to his CMT cred, he's a seasoned singer/songwriter who has pursued music since he was 5 years old.

He did family talent shows as a kid — "kind of like the von Trapps meet the 'Brady Bunch,'" he joked — then started writing songs when he was 15. After high school, he joined the Army as a medic, but continued to sing at military functions and elsewhere.

He left the military and joined the Rural Metro Fire Department, where he has worked for 11 years. He has spent the past year in Sahuarita.

In his spare time, Scroggs has continued singing and writing songs. He describes his music as pop country. The lyrics are thoughtful and the music is rich in acoustic strains, which is why many might label it "country" outright.

About six years ago, the 36-year-old father of a 13-year-old girl turned his focus more seri-



COURTESY OF GALEN EVANS

Billy Scroggs was an Army medic before joining the Rural Metro Fire Department 11 years ago.

ously to his music. Scroggs concentrated on his songwriting, honing his craft and "putting it out there," he said. His daughter's reaction? "She thinks I'm weird," he said.

Scroggs' showing in the national CMT contest, which was voted on by viewers, bolstered his confidence and boosted sales of his self-recorded, one-man-band debut CD, "You Got Me" (available at Zia Records.)

He now has arrived at a crossroads. In the next few months, Scroggs is considering taking a leave from the Fire Department and heading to Nashville. If he decides to make that move, he'll knock on doors, play showcases and see if his music and passion

can take him beyond the fire line to the big time.

Robb, meanwhile, is getting his first taste of modest local recognition since his song "Cool Pool Rules" began airing on Cox Cable. The reggae tune teaches kids about pool safety.

Robb, a 29-year-old firefighter and emergency medical technician who has been tooling around Tucson's music scene for the past decade, described his music as a cross between modern rock and country.

"Some people will hear the music and think it sounds more country, like Keith Urban, and some will think it's more like Maroon 5," he explained. "It's an interesting blend."

RESTAURANT INDEX

LOOK FOR THESE FINE ADVERTISERS IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

ARIZONA FAMILY RESTAURANT

BROADWAY CAFE

CAFÉ RAMEY

CATTLETOWN STEAKHOUSE & SALOON

CHOPPED

CITY GRILL

MARIE CALLENDERS

METROPOLITAN GRILL

SUSHI GARDEN

TAKAMATSU RESTAURANT

En Fuego Benefit Concert

- **What:** Concert to benefit the American Red Cross, which helps families displaced because of fires and other disasters.
- **When:** 5 p.m. Saturday. Event begins with firefighting displays and exhibits. Concert begins at 7 (gates open at 6).
- **Where:** Casino del Sol's AVA, 5655 W. Valencia Road.
- **Admission:** \$10; children age 12 or younger are free; tickets available through www.avaconcerts.com.

2007

June 8, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/06/08/54059-three-who-died-in-stolen-suv-not-yet-identified/>

Three who died in stolen SUV not yet identified

by Multiple Authors on Jun 08, 2007, under Local, Special



Group may have been going to a barbecue



A sport utility vehicle rests on top of three parked vehicles in the front yard of a home in the 2800 block of West Bilby Road on Thursday. The crash killed three people in the SUV.

What initially was reported as a possible burglary in progress that led to a car crash, which killed three people Thursday, may actually have been a group of people showing up for a barbecue.

The partygoers may have fled from Pima County Sheriff's deputies because they were driving a stolen SUV, a sheriff's bureau chief said Friday morning.

Killed in the crash were a man and a woman whose names have not been determined, and a man whose name is being withheld, said Bureau Chief Richard Kastigar, in charge of criminal investigations.

Injured in the crash was a second woman, Kristina E. Phillips, 20, address unavailable, Kastigar said. She was taken to a hospital with nonlife threatening injuries. She was released Friday and was booked into Pima county Jail for unlawful use of a means of transportation.

The buildup to the fatal chase began about 5:30 p.m. Thursday when a resident near a home in the 4200 block of South Draper Road called 911 to report people at a neighbor's home when no one was expected to be there, Kastigar said. She later called back to tell the 911 operator that she had seen a person running from the home and she thought a burglary was in progress, Kastigar said.

Deputies were sent to the home and when they arrived four people got into the reportedly stolen SUV and began to drive away as a fifth person also tried to get into the vehicle.

That person fell out of the SUV and was arrested by deputies, Kastigar said.

The man was identified by a Pima County Jail records clerk as Guillermo Adrian Alcantar Lomeli of Sonora, Mexico. He was being held without bail on a charge of unlawful use of a means of transportation and on a no-bail immigration hold. Kastigar said Lomeli is suspected of being here illegally.

As Lomeli was being arrested the other four in the SUV fled. Deputies believe the woman who died in the crash was driving. Kastigar said.

The chase eventually led to West Bilby Road, where the SUV rammed the front of a car at the intersection of Cardinal Avenue, said Sgt. Jim Ogden, a sheriff's spokesman. The SUV continued down Bilby, where its driver lost control.

The SUV then slammed through a wall topped with a fence and flipped, landing on three vehicles parked in a front yard of a home in the 2800 block of Bilby, Ogden said.

Three of the four passengers in the SUV were ejected, Ogden said. One man and one woman hit the wall surrounding the yard, and another man was thrown through wrought-iron bars on a window of the vacant house next door, landing inside the home.

Two died at the scene, and another died in a helicopter on the way to a hospital.

Phillips, the fourth passenger, was taken to University Medical Center with injuries that were not life-threatening, Drexel Heights Fire Department spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said.

The two people in the car hit by the SUV in the intersection of Bilby and Cardinal were not injured, Ogden said.

In addition to five units from Drexel Heights, the Pima County Sheriff's Department and the Tohono O'odham Fire Department had units on the scene.

Bilby was closed between Cardinal and Cactus Wren avenues until 10:30 p.m. Thursday.

By David L. Teibel, Ryn Gargulinski

June 8, 2007, Arizona Daily Star:

SUV chased by deputies hits vehicle, flips, killing three of its occupants



JUNE 08, 2007 12:00 AM • BY NATHAN OLIVAREZ-GILES
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Three people were killed and one was injured Thursday evening when an SUV being chased by sheriff's deputies hit a car, flipped and landed upside down on three parked vehicles in front of a Southwest Side home, officials said.

The crash left bodies strewn over a yard and inside a home.

The four people in the stolen silver Dodge Durango were suspects in a burglary that occurred several miles away, a sheriff's official said.

The incident began with the report at 5:21 p.m. of a burglary in progress at a home near the Tucson Mountains. A deputy arrived in the 4000 block of South Draper Road, near West Bopp and South Kinney roads, and detained one man on suspicion of burglary, said Sgt. James Ogden, a Pima County sheriff's spokesman.

Four other people fled from the home in the Durango and the deputy called for assistance to catch them.

Deputies spotted the SUV near Bopp and Kinney, he said, and began chasing it.

The SUV was headed east on West Bilby Road and failed to stop at South Cardinal Avenue, about 10 miles from the burglary scene. The Durango hit a Suzuki car in the intersection about 5:40 p.m., Ogden said.

The force of the impact sent the Durango through one front yard in the 2800 block of Bilby before it crashed into a cinder-block wall at a second house and flipped. The SUV landed upside down on three vehicles parked in the front yard of the second house, he said.

Ogden said he didn't know how fast the SUV was traveling at the time of the crash. Nor did he know how close deputies were to the SUV when the crash occurred. He did say they were apparently close enough to witness the crash.

Two men and a woman in the Durango were thrown from the vehicle, said Tracy Koslowski of the Drexel Heights Fire District.

Two of the occupants were thrown into a cinder-block wall with enough force to knock down a section of the wall, Ogden said. The third person went through the metal security bars on a window of a neighbor's house and ended up inside the home, Ogden said.

One man and the woman were pronounced dead at the scene, Koslowski said.

The other man who was ejected was taken by helicopter with life-threatening injuries to University Medical Center, Koslowski said. The man died on the way to the hospital, Ogden said later.

2007

June 8, 2007, Arizona Daily Star:

The other man who was ejected was taken by helicopter with life-threatening injuries to University Medical Center, Koslowski said. The man died on the way to the hospital, Ogden said later.

The fourth occupant of the Durango, a woman in her 20s, suffered leg injuries and was taken by ambulance to UMC. Her injuries were not serious.

No one was in any of the three parked vehicles, Koslowski said. A woman in the car that was hit by the SUV in the intersection was checked by medical personnel but didn't suffer any serious injuries.

The Sheriff's Department is investigating the burglary and the crash, Ogden said. It was not immediately known if charges were to be filed against the man detained at the house or the woman in the Durango.

Luis Fierro, 34, who owns the home where one of the SUV's occupants crashed through the window said no one was in the house at the time.

He's been renovating the house with plans to move into it when he's finished. But after Thursday's crash, Fierro said he doesn't know if he'll move into the home now.

"You only see this kind of stuff on TV. I really can't imagine how it happened," Fierro said.

He said he had just installed the security bars on the window about two hours before the crash.



chris coduto / for the arizona daily star

2007

June 9, 2007:

Southern Arizona's Fire Departments
present

En Fuego

A Family Concert Benefitting



**American
Red Cross**

Southern Arizona Chapter

June 9th

at Casino del Sol's AVA Amphitheater

Family Fun starts at 5 p.m.

Gates open 6 p.m.

Show starts at 7 p.m.

\$10 per ticket, children 12 and under FREE
purchase your tickets at www.avaconcerts.com



June 29, 2007, *Tucson Citizen*:

Pilot uninjured in crash near Ryan; desert landing no hindrance to traffic

DAVID L. TEIBEL

Published: 06.29.2007

Metro-area streets were clear by 7 a.m. Friday morning with no incidents reported that could tie up rush-hour traffic, but the Sheriff's Department was investigating the crash landing of an experimental airplane near Ryan Airfield west of Tucson.

There were no injuries or flames after the single-engine aircraft came down in a cloud of dust near South San Joaquin Road and Old Ajo Highway, said Tracy Koslowski, spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire Department.

When firefighters arrived at the crash scene, Koslowski said, the pilot, the sole occupant of the small aircraft, already had fled the wreckage.

No information about the pilot was available early Friday, a sheriff's dispatch supervisor said.

A witness told deputies the craft was circling the airfield when it crash landed in the desert about 5:10 a.m.

The incident is not affecting Southwest Side traffic, the supervisor said.

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Babysitting Program

Times have changed for older kids who want to start babysitting. Years ago, older kids began their babysitting careers by simply letting parents in the neighborhood know that they were available. The idea of getting training, certificates, or any other kind of preparation was unheard of. How times have changed! These days, there's far more publicity about safety concerns, with everything from the need to put babies to sleep on their backs to prevent sudden infant death syndrome, to the importance of using child car seats properly. That means that becoming a successful babysitter involves some preparation so that your son or daughter can assure parents that they can deal with the behavioral and safety aspects of the job, as well as any professional issues that might arise.

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The program takes two days to cover all the above mentioned classes. At the conclusion of the program, participants walk away with a certificate listing all of the training and classes they completed. They also receive some safety items to take with them as they begin their babysitting journey.

Drexel Heights Fire District is offering the Babysitting Program throughout the summer. Class dates include July 18 and 20 or Aug. 6 and 8. The two-day sessions run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The cost for the Babysitting Program is \$10 for district residents and \$25 for non-district residents.

To register, visit our Drexel Heights Fire District Administration offices at 5030 South Camino Verde. For more information about the classes, call 520-883-4341 or visit www.drexelfire.net.

FIRE DISTRICT BOARD

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m. in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 South Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend.

The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Robert Bishman, Clerk James Bertrand, Member Laura Dailey, Member Ron Greil and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

WATER SAFETY TIPS

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of four in Arizona. Near drowning is also very tragic and can cause permanent brain damage. Drowning and near drowning can be prevented. Anyone involved with young children needs to be aware of how to prevent this tragedy.

Never leave your child unattended in or near a lake, swimming pool, hot tub, spa, bathtub, toilet, or bucket of water, not even for a second.

Make sure you keep toys, tricycles, and other play items away from the pool or spa. Don't allow barriers, such as fences or walls, give you a false sense of security regarding your child's safety. There is NO substitute for adult supervision.

Make sure your pool or spa has an effective barrier, such as a fence, wall, or locked gate that helps to guard against unauthorized access. Gates should have

self-closing, self-latching mechanisms. Latches need to be out of reach of young children. Your pool or spa should have a barrier regardless of whether they are covered. Remember to always drain standing water off the cover of your pool or spa.

Children must also be supervised while bathing. Leaving a child in charge of a younger sibling is not acceptable. Many tragedies occur when the child is left alone in the tub for "just a few seconds" while the telephone is being answered or while the parent or adult caretaker is getting a towel. It is very important to remember to immediately empty the bathtub once the bath is finished. Children have also been known to drown in toilet bowls. A young toddler is inquisitive by nature and is drawn to any body of water, including the toilet bowl. With a toddler's head and body weight distribution, a child that reaches into the toilet and falls in head first may not have the strength to lift themselves out and escape.

As pool season arrives, won't you take the time to learn CPR and other lifesaving techniques? Contact Drexel Heights Fire District to find out when the next available CPR class is in your community.

Post your local emergency number on your phones and consider installing a phone near the pool area. The number to call for emergency help in the Drexel Heights Fire District area is 911. And remember...Adult supervision is the best approach in the prevention of drowning!

2007

July 20, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/07/20/57924-storm-cuts-power-for-13-000-causes-garage-fire/>

Storm cuts power for 13,000, causes garage fire

by Ryn Gargulinski on Jul 20, 2007, under Local



A powerful thunderstorm roared through Tucson Thursday evening, knocking down power lines and leaving thousands without power, and causing a house fire.

Winds from 50 to 69 mph whipped across the city, meteorologist Greg Mollere of the National Weather Service said.

Rain totals varied from 0.51 of an inch on the Northwest side to 0.11 of an inch at Tucson International Airport, the city's official measuring spot.

Downed power lines sparked a house fire about 8 p.m. on South Lightning "L," near South Camino Verde and Ajo Way, Drexel Heights Fire Department spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said.

Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the garage attached to a double-wide modular home, keeping the damage at less than \$1,000, she said.

The home's sole occupant, was not home at the time, and her two dogs got out of the house safely, Koslowski said.

Other downed lines and electrical troubles left about 13,000 Tucson Electric Power customers in the dark, TEP spokesman Joseph Barrios said.

The scattered power outages, reported about 8:20 p.m., stretched to Tucson's northern edge and as far south as Green Valley and Sonoita, Barrios said.

By 9:30, nearly half of those customers had power restored. About 3,200 customers on the South Side remained in the dark as of 10 p.m., Barrios said. They live in an area bordered by Irvington Road on the north, Los Reales Road on the south, Craycroft Road on the east and Country Club Road on the west.

Power lines also were reported down at 4500 E. Benson Highway, Barrios said, and a pole down at Curtis and Shannon roads cut off power to 15 customers.

No city or county road closures were reported, but public safety workers were preparing for the worst. Flood warning signs were placed near sites such as the Pantano Wash, that are prone to flooding, city Department of Transportation spokesman Mike Graham said.

The storm occurred when two storm cells merged over Vail and moved northwest across the city, the Weather Service said. One of the cells had come up from the Patagonia area where "pingpong-sized" hail was reported.

A microburst Wednesday afternoon felled more than 100 trees at the Oro Valley Country Club, the Weather Service said.

2007

July 23, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/07/23/58131-massive-storm-pummeled-downtown-south-side/>

Massive storm pummeled downtown, South Side

by Tucson Citizen on Jul 23, 2007, under Special

8+1 0

Recommend Share 0



Firefighters from Tucson Fire Department save a woman who had been trapped in a wash at East Irvington Road and the railroad tracks west of South Park Avenue.



The rescued woman was wet, but safe.

Pummeling rain from an afternoon thunderstorm filled South Side washes Monday, requiring numerous swift water rescues by area fire departments.

The storm also knocked down numerous power poles and cut off electricity to thousands.

Tucson Fire Department was the first to be called for a 2:48 p.m. rescue where a car containing a couple had been swept nearly 100 yards down Rodeo Wash, near North 17th Street and West Irvington Road, Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Quinn said.

The 30-year-old man was able to get out of their Grand Am and make it to the bank, Quinn said, while his 27-year-old wife was left trapped atop the vehicle.

Firefighters were on the scene at 2:58 p.m. and had Adriana safely on the bank at 3:21 p.m., Quinn said.

"I can't emphasize enough to stay out of the washes," Quinn said. He said people need to realize how small an area of the tire has actual contact with the road – and that tires are inflated. "They float," he said, making it very easy for cars to get swept away.

Drexel Heights Fire Department also had a wash rescue around 3 p.m. when two cars became trapped in a construction culvert on West Valencia Road, west of South Mark, fire department spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said.

U.S. Border Patrol assisted getting one woman pulled out, she said.

2007

July 23, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/07/23/58131-massive-storm-pummeled-downtown-south-side/>

"They towed her out and she kept on driving," Koslowski said.

The other vehicle's driver, a 55-year-old man, remained stuck in his car, but firefighters were able to pull him to safety.

The Drexel Height crew had another water rescue a little after 4 p.m., Koslowski said, with two vehicles stuck between washes on South San Joaquin Road, south of West Bopp Road.

She said two people were in each vehicle and the occupants were able to remain inside their vehicles while firefighters found a passable part of the road to lead them to safety.

Several roadways were closed and a total of 24 traffic hazards were reported between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on the city's Department of Transportation Web site. They ranged from traffic light malfunctions to several hit and runs. None were fatal.

Drexel Heights handled two collisions on Ajo Way, between South La Cholla Boulevard and South Kinney Road, just before 4 p.m., Koslowski said.

"It's really slippery out there," Koslowski said. "People have to slow down and leave extra room between vehicles."

More hazards included 10 power poles down along South Houghton Road, near Valencia, that fell into unoccupied desert areas, Tucson Electric Power spokesman Joe Salkowski said.

"The storm was intense, but it was short," he said. The storm's initial impact cut off power to 2,400 customers, Salkowski said, but TEP had it down to 1,500 by 4:45 p.m.

The National Weather Service's Tucson office reported a 12-hour rainfall of 1.77 inches in the Mt. Lemmon area, 1.46 inches in Northeast Tucson, 1 inch in Central Tucson and 1.30 inches near the Pima Air Museum on the South Side.

2007

July 24, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/2007/07/24/46563-water-rescues-1-inch-plus-of-rain-in-city/>

Water rescues, 1-inch-plus of rain in city

by Ryn Gargulinski on Jul 24, 2007, under Local



Citizen Staff Writer

RYN GARGULINSKI

rynski@tucsoncitizen.com

Mother Nature gave Tucsonans another reason to dread Mondays when she unleashed a storm that left several stranded motorists needing rescue, knocked down numerous power poles and cut electricity to thousands.

The storm formed southeast of the city and moved mostly west to northwest, the National Weather Service said, dropping more than an inch of rain in parts of the metro area and creating gusts of more than 60 mph.

The Tucson Fire Department was the first to be called, for a 2:48 p.m. rescue.

A car containing a couple had been swept nearly 100 yards down Rodeo Wash, near South 17th Avenue and West Irvington Road, Deputy fire Chief Patrick Quinn said.

Ron Romo, 30, escaped his Pontiac Grand Am and made it to the bank, Quinn said.

Romo's 27-year-old wife, Adriana, was left stranded atop the car with rushing water inches from the car's roof.

Firefighters arrived by 2:58 p.m. and had the woman safely on the bank by 3:21 p.m., Quinn said. Rescuers lifted her to safety using a firetruck ladder. She had minor injuries and declined treatment, Quinn said.

"I can't emphasize enough to stay out of the washes," Quinn said. He said people need to realize that only a small part of the tire has contact with the road and that tires are inflated.

"They float," he said, making it easy for cars to get swept away.

The city Fire Department conducted another swift water rescue on the East Side later in the afternoon, Battalion Chief Paul McDonough said. He did not have details Monday night.

The Drexel Heights Fire Department was called to a rescue about 3 p.m. when two cars became trapped in a construction culvert on West Valencia Road, west of South Mark Road, spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said.

2007

July 24, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue2/2007/07/24/46563-water-rescues-1-inch-plus-of-rain-in-city/>

U.S. Border Patrol agents helped get one woman out, she said.

"They towed her out and she kept on driving," Koslowski said.

The other driver, a 55-year-old man, remained stuck in his car. Firefighters pulled him to safety.

The Drexel Heights crew went to another water rescue a little after 4 p.m., Koslowski said, with two vehicles trapped on high ground between washes on South San Joaquin Road, south of West Bopp Road.

She said two people were in each vehicle and they were led to safety after firefighters found a passable path.

Between the beginning of the storm about 2:10 p.m. and its abatement about 3:40 p.m., city firefighters handled 65 storm-related calls, including 10 auto collisions and two swift water rescues, McDonough said.

Numerous city roads were closed and 24 traffic hazards were reported between 2 and 4 p.m. on the city Department of Transportation's Web site.

They ranged from traffic light malfunctions to several hit-and-runs. None was fatal.

Drexel Heights handled two collisions on Ajo Way, between South La Cholla Boulevard and South Kinney Road, just before 4 p.m, Koslowski said.

"It's really slippery out there," Koslowski said. "People have to slow down and leave extra room between vehicles."

Other hazards included 10 power poles along South Houghton Road, near Valencia Road, that fell into unoccupied desert areas, Tucson Electric Power spokesman Joe Salkowski said.

"The storm was intense but it was short," he said.

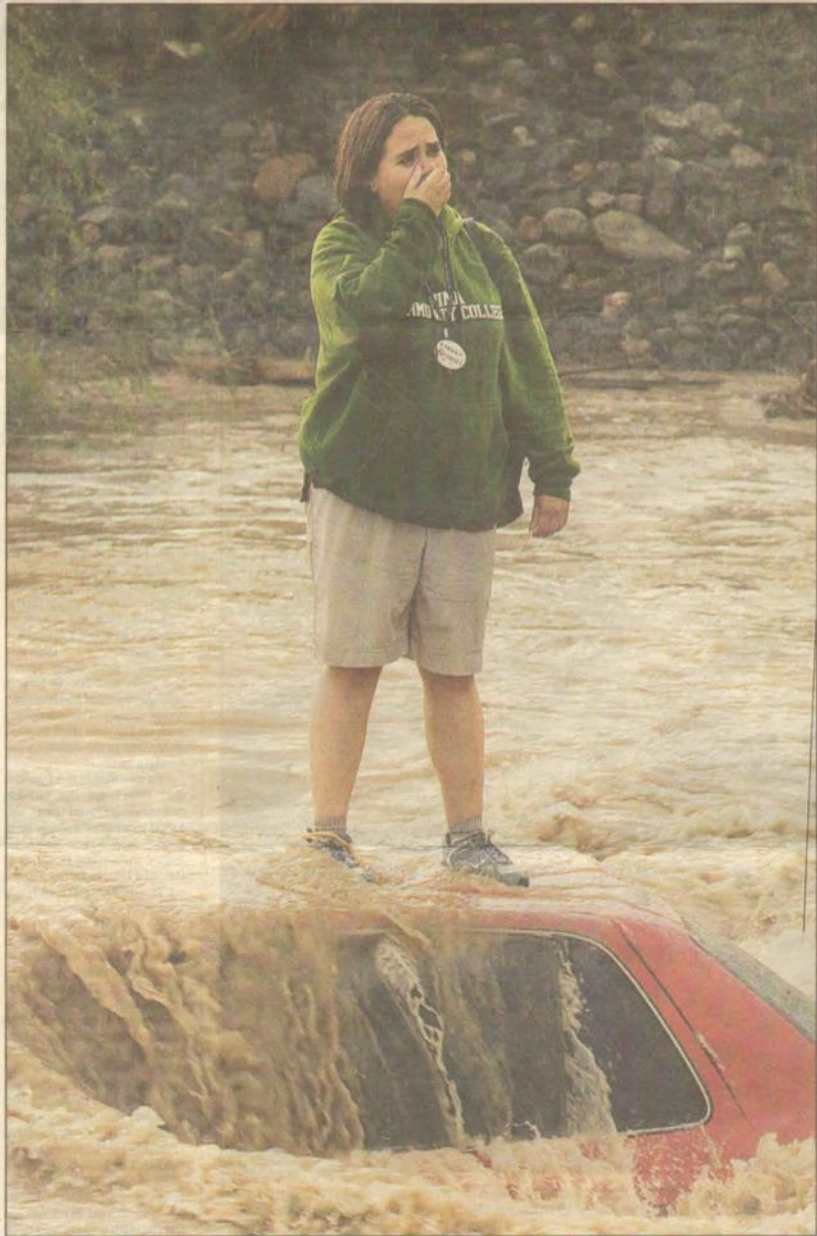
Its initial impact cut power to 2,400 customers, Salkowski said. TEP had it down to 1,500 by 4:45 p.m. and fewer than 100 by 6:15 p.m.

Those whose power was out because of the felled poles had power rerouted, Salkowski said.

TEP scheduled repairs of the poles for Tuesday morning, he said.

The National Weather Service's Tucson office reported a 12-hour rainfall total of 1.77 inches on Mount Lemmon, 1.46 inches in northeast Tucson, 1 inch in central Tucson and 1.3 inches near the Pima Air & Space Museum on the Southeast Side.

STORM STRANDS DRIVERS, CUTS POWER



AARON J. LATHAM / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Dismay is apparent on the face of Adriana Romo, 27, as she waits on the roof of her car. The vehicle was swept down the Rodeo Wash just south of East Irvington Road and west of South Park Avenue Monday. While Romo stood stranded, her husband swam to safety.

Find a video and slide show of a swift-water rescue and other weather images from around the city in the online version of this story at <http://azstarnet.com/monsoon>

Lots of water, but no one's hurt

By Jack Gillum
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A swath of summer storms drenched Tucson on Monday, stranding drivers in floodwaters, knocking down power lines and forcing authorities to close roads throughout the metro area.

The weather set a familiar scene — the submerged streets during the rain and the damage surveyed afterward — for the Old Pueblo's monsoon, which began 15 days ago and has doused some parts of the city with more than 2 inches of rain since.

Monday's severe weather, though, was remarkable in the havoc wreaked on mo-

torists, with several needing to be saved from rushing waters.

One of those needing rescuing was 27-year-old Adriana Romo. She was in a car that crossed into the flooded Rodeo Wash near East Irvington Road and South Park Avenue and got swept away by fast-moving water. Tucson Fire Department officials said her husband managed to swim from the stranded vehicle to safety, but Romo remained trapped on the car's roof.

Firefighters rescued Romo by positioning a ladder over her car and throwing her a rope with a safety harness. She was then lifted to dry land

and didn't appear to be injured.

Other vehicles faced similar waterlogged fates. One stalled car was trapped under several feet of water in Downtown's Stone Avenue underpass, but no one was in the vehicle.

Thunderstorms, bringing with them hail and strong winds, hovered over the East Side at about 1:30 p.m., the National Weather Service in Tucson reported. After creeping west at about 10 mph, the storms dumped about 1.25 inches of rain near the University of Arizona. Tucson International

RAINFALL TOTALS

University of Arizona	
Rainfall Monday	1.25"
Monsoon total	2.35"

Tucson International Airport	
Rainfall Monday	0.41"
Monsoon total	1.96"

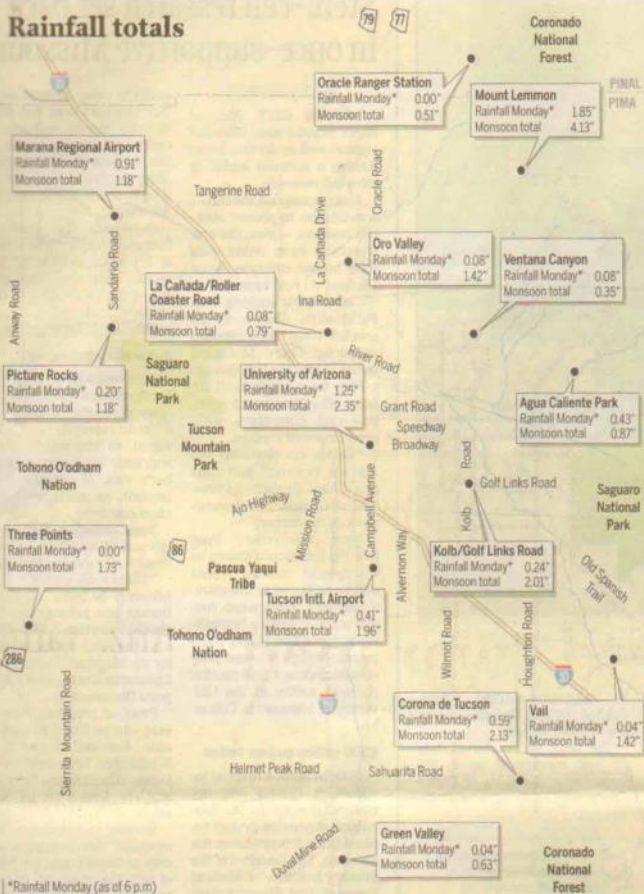
Kolb and Golf Links roads	
Rainfall Monday	0.24"
Monsoon total	2.01"

*Rainfall Monday as of 6 p.m.

See complete list of rainfall totals on A3.

See STORM, A3

Rainfall totals



7/24/07 Sources: Pima County Regional Flood Control District and National Weather

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

STORM

Continued from Page A1

Airport received a little less than a half-inch of rain.

On Mount Lemmon, the Pima County Regional Flood Control District recorded 1.85 inches of rain as of 6 p.m. — a total of about 4 inches since the monsoons began on July 8.

Several streets around Tucson sustained moderate flooding. At North Tucson Boulevard and East Glenn Street, a thick layer of water covered the roadway as vehicles slowed to a crawl while passing through.

Nearby, at East Fort Lowell Road and North Mountain Avenue, several vehicles were trapped in flooding washes, police said. And on the West Side, a woman and two children were rescued from high floodwaters around 3 p.m., said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

Drexel Heights rescuers were called to another afternoon water mishap when two vehicles became stranded southwest of Tucson, near South San Juaquin and West Bopp roads.

There were no reports of injuries from storm-related incidents.

Several roads in the metro area remained closed Monday evening due to wash flooding, including South Harrison Road



BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Wayne Johnson, left, and Mike Ballard saw a woman stuck in the middle of a flooded street in Midtown and gave her a hand, wading out and pushing her and her van to shallower water.

ROAD CLOSURES

To check on road closures today in Pima County, call 547-7510.

at the Pantano Wash; North Camino de la Tierra at the Rillito River; and West Drexel Road at the Santa Cruz River.

Monday's severe weather also affected those who may have stayed indoors.

About 2,500 Tucson Electric Power Co. customers were left without power at mid-afternoon Monday, TEP spokesman Joe Salkowski said.

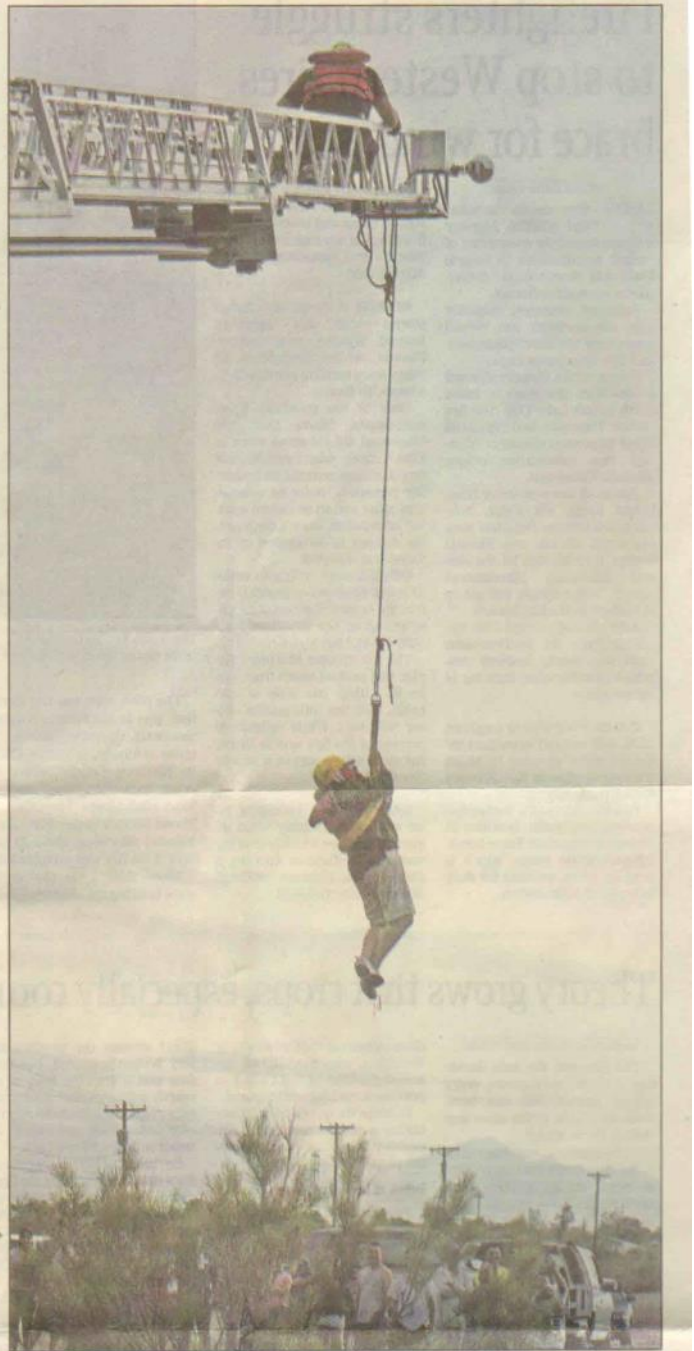
On the Southeast Side, about 1,400 were left without service

after storms knocked over 10 power poles near South Houghton and East Valencia roads. An additional 1,100 were without electricity Monday afternoon, TEP said, but power to those customers was restored by early Monday evening.

Customers' power citywide was restored by early evening, Salkowski said.

Forecasters were predicting a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms for the week ahead.

Reporters Dale Quinn and Dan Sorenson contributed to this story. Contact reporter Jack Gillum at 807-8012 or at jgillum@azstarnet.com.



AARON J. LATHAM / ARIZONA DAILY STAR
Adriana Romo hangs from a firetruck ladder as she is rescued from the roof of her car, submerged in the flooded Rodeo Wash on the South Side.



A.E. ARIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR
At left, the roof of a small car is barely visible near the bottom of the Stone Avenue underpass as Rigo Almader, with the city Department of Transportation, assesses the situation. The water level was more than 6 feet deep.

2007

July 27 & 28, 2007:



Thanks to the para medics and
Drexel Heights for helping
me out Friday nite (Oct 27)
with my breathing problem.

Ended up staying 2 days
at Northwest and recovered
fine.

Keep up the great work

Pooches gracias!

Sheldon Larson

2007

July 27 & 28, 2007:

**A Special Note of Thanks
C.A.R.E. Fair
July 27 & 28, 2007**

**Your commitment to Tucson's children
is recognized and appreciated**



***Children's Assistance & Resource Event
*Asistencia y Recursos Para Niños™**

Tracy Koslowski



Hope Thomas

Mgr Community Benefits

2007

July 28, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/07/28/58663-swift-water-rescue-teams-see-faces-of-true-fear/>

Swift-water rescue teams see faces of 'true fear'

by Ryn Gargulinski on Jul 28, 2007, under Local

It may not be the face of God some Pima County residents see when they think they are going to die in a raging torrent.

They may well see Paul Mischel, Mike McKendrick or a handful of other local firefighters who are members of technical rescue teams.

With Tucson's monsoon in full gear, teams have been wading in dangerous waters this past week. Monday's big storm generated at least six calls for rescues of stranded motorists, and three required the response of rescue teams from Tucson Fire Department, Drexel Heights Fire District or Northwest Fire and Rescue District. TFD has responded to 11 swift-water calls so far this year, three this week.

The rescue teams rush to help people trapped in places that require special training and equipment to get them to safety, usually on cliffs or in flooded rivers or washes.

"Seeing the faces when you pull them out, you see the true look of fear," NWFD Capt. Paul Mischel said. "Not fear like when you see a horror movie, but true fear. They know this is one of their nine lives they've just expended."

Although the rescue may happen in seconds, TRT training takes days.

The 18 members of Northwest's TRT have undergone 300 hours of training that includes classroom basics and extended rescue exercise trips in the Gila River, said Mischel, 38, a team trainer. He's been with the rescue team 16 years and a firefighter for 18.

The 28 members of the Tucson Fire Department's rescue team get an annual 40 hours of rescue training that involves classrooms, city pools and rushing water.

"We throw someone in the river," TFD Deputy Chief Mike McKendrick said of their swift-water training. "It gives us a feel for the dynamics of the water," he said. McKendrick, 49, has been with TFD for 27 years and involved in technical rescue for 14.

He's taught rescue classes across the state and knows how uninteresting some aspects – such as tying a knot that won't unravel while using the thick nylon rope to haul a hiker off a cliff – can seem.

Swift-water rescues are a regular summer occurrence, and both teams follow the same guidelines, firefighters said.

2007

July 28, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/07/28/58663-swift-water-rescue-teams-see-faces-of-true-fear/>

Swift-water rescue teams see faces of 'true fear'

by Ryn Gargulinski on Jul 28, 2007, under Local

"Reach, throw, row, go and helo" is the order of action mnemonic that firefighters use. Reach is when a team member can pull the person to safety. Throwing the person a rope is next. Row is using safety rafts to get to the victim. Go is when team members have to enter the water, though they do so only clad in wetsuits, life vests and helmets. The helicopter is the last resort.

"The helicopter is pretty far down the list," McKendrick said. "You have overhead wires, trees, power poles."

He said most of the swift-water rescues in southern Arizona take place when a storm is raging, and the high winds increase risks. Both teams call for the Arizona Department of Safety helicopter, provided it's available and there is a pilot willing to fly in storm conditions.

Getting in the water for a rescue is as dangerous for firefighters as for the people they're rescuing, firefighters said. Tree limbs, spare tires, shopping carts, glass shards and other scrap that gets deposited in washes become dangerous missiles in a flood.

"Keeping calm in unnerving circumstances is something you need to be on the team," Mischel said, "especially in confined spaces."

He said those who are mechanically driven – "good with nuts and bolts" – do well on the team.

A lack of fear of the unknown, quick thinking and willingness to follow procedures are necessary traits for team members, McKendrick said.

"Those who are strictly adrenaline junkies don't do well," he said. "Getting students to focus on what may seem mundane is one of the most frustrating aspects (of training)."

McKendrick has simple advice for county residents to make the job of rescue teams easier: Stay out of washes when it rains.



Adriana Romo, 27, is rescued from the roof of her car Monday in Rodeo Wash near Irvington Road and South Sixth Avenue. She and her husband, Ron, 30, were trying to cross the wash on Irvington when they became stranded and were swept downstream.

2007

July 29, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/06/29/56128-pilot-uninjured-in-crash-near-ryan-desert-landing-no-hindrance-to-traffic/>

Pilot uninjured in crash near Ryan; desert landing no hindrance to traffic

by David L. Teibel on Jun 29, 2007, under Special



Metro-area streets were clear by 7 a.m. Friday morning with no incidents reported that could tie up rush-hour traffic, but the Sheriff's Department was investigating the crash landing of an experimental airplane near Ryan Airfield west of Tucson.

There were no injuries or flames after the single-engine aircraft came down in a cloud of dust near South San Joaquin Road and Old Ajo Highway, said Tracy Koslowski, spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire Department.

When firefighters arrived at the crash scene, Koslowski said, the pilot, the sole occupant of the small aircraft, already had fled the wreckage.

No information about the pilot was available early Friday, a sheriff's dispatch supervisor said.

A witness told deputies the craft was circling the airfield when it crash landed in the desert about 5:10 a.m.

The incident is not affecting Southwest Side traffic, the supervisor said.

August 2007, *Desert Times*:

Drexel Heights Fire District offers services big and small

By MARK POEPEL
Desert Times

TUCSON — Tracy Koslowski with the Drexel Heights Fire District imagines a senior couple living in Tucson Estates with grandchildren coming over to visit from out of state. One grandchild is an adolescent and has recently taken an interest in playing with matches. The other is a three-year-old and needs a car seat, but the couple does not have one in their vehicle.

The Drexel Heights Fire District has free solutions for both concerns. Residents in the area covered by Drexel Heights Fire can get fire extinguishers and smoke detectors delivered and installed at no cost just for asking. It might not stop a grandchild from being curious about fire, but it can help provide peace of mind in the house.

For the car, the fire department offers free car seats and booster seats. The number to call for these and other services is 520-883-4341, the main non-emergency line.

"We see a lot of the things other departments are doing in the city and other places, and we offer the same," said Koslowski, in charge of outreach and information for the Drexel Heights Fire District. "We'd be more than happy to take care of those things for them."

The fire department employs 100 people. It serves 48,000 residents in the foothills of Tucson's growing southwest region, and officials expect the area's population to nearly double in the next several years. Growth poses challenges and opportunities. Not only does the department provide free safety materials, it responds to medical and fire calls.

"People might be surprised to know out of our 12 to 20 calls each day about 75 percent of them are medical calls," Koslowski said. "Everyone's trained at least as a paramedic, and some have other training as well."

See FIRE Page 3



Fire Marshal Dave Stone points to the cause of a mobile home fire in Tucson Estates. An electrical problem with a ceiling fan caused the 1960s mobile home to burn in a matter of minutes.

Photo by Mark Poepel

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Welcome Battalion Chief Mario Acosta

Drexel Heights Fire District would like to welcome aboard a new Battalion Chief to the District, Mario Acosta. Chief Acosta comes to the District from New Mexico where he started his fire service career as a firefighter in 1986 with the Farmington Fire Department. He moved up the ranks from Firefighter, to Engineer, to Lieutenant, to Captain, to Battalion Chief, which was his most recent assignment at Farmington Fire Department. His assignment here at Drexel will be to supervise one of the three platoon shifts. He will also be assigned to manage the Emergency Operations section of the District.

Chief Acosta originally got interested in the fire service when a brother-in-law took him to a fire station to meet some firefighters. His brother-in-law thought a career in the fire service would be a good fit for him and he agreed. Chief Acosta says he enjoys helping people which is why he feels he was so drawn to public service. He also says the job satisfaction from his career as a firefighter is what keeps him going.

During his career with Farmington Fire Department, Chief Acosta served as the Regional Staff Liaison for HazMat. He oversaw an 18 member team for the northwest part of the state. He also was the Technical Rescue Liaison for the department serving with the New Mexico Urban Search & Rescue Task Force 1. This Technical Rescue Team was deployed to assist with the Katrina relief efforts. His training includes Firefighter I & II International Fire Service Accreditation Congress certification, HazMat Operations, Technical Rescue Operations, and Incident Manager.

Chief Acosta is one of 14 kids in his family and he is the proud father of three beautiful girls. His older two girls are twins and they are in college in New Mexico. He enjoys spending as much time as possible with his family. In his spare time, Chief Acosta likes outdoor



activities like motorcycles, boating, water skiing, mountain biking, hot rods National hot Rod Association and NASCAR.

The Drexel Heights Fire Board and Staff would like to welcome Battalion Chief Mario Acosta to the department. His skills and background made him a good fit for the department and the District will benefit from his expertise.

Fire district offers services big and small

FIRE, from page 1

Drexel Heights dispatchers take calls from as far west as the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation and as far to Tucson's southeast as Vail, although Drexel Heights authorities primarily respond to calls only in their local district.

When asked what some of the biggest problems locally are, Koslowski mentioned some bad habits she sees in local drivers. The area is not rural and quiet any longer.

"There are more cars than ever on Ajo and Valencia. Those two roads especially are crowded, and we still have people going, not five or 10 miles over the speed limit but 15. Another thing is when people try to drive unlicensed ATVs on those roads. You just can't do that anymore with the growth we've had," she said.

Firefighters are trained in fire

suppression and emergency medical care, and also, each has an additional area of expertise. Some are trained for swift water rescue. Some practice technical rescues, including high-angle or mountain rescues. Some handle hazardous materials, and others know wildland firefighting.

"We really do have it all out here," Koslowski said.

In an average year Drexel Heights firefighters are called to at least two nationally significant wildfires.

For all the training and high-adrenaline skills local firefighter have, the district still keeps its main focus on prevention and outreach. Residents can get a free fire inspection of their home and advice on how to prevent fires.

The department also offers certified CPR courses at the cost of only \$5 per class. If groups come together, the department

will often conduct a class at a community building or church, for example. Residents are urged to call the non-emergency line listed above for information on all of these services.

The department will also open locked vehicles and remove snakes from residents' homes or nearby yards. Those calls should be treated as emergencies, and residents are urged to call 9-1-1 for any emergency.

"Car lockouts are emergencies," Koslowski said. "Especially when it's so hot outside, people can get dehydrated really quickly."

Whether it's delivering and installing a smoke detector or responding to a motorist trapped in a running wash, the Drexel Heights Fire District is prepared to serve and offers many ways for residents to be ready as well.

Seniors learn monsoon safety strategies from fire department

By MARK POEPEL
Desert Times

TUCSON — One weekday afternoon in July, Dorothy Spotts, who lives in southwest Tucson at the Western Way RV Resort, found herself on the east side of town with monsoon storms between her and home.

"When I went to the store, it was sunny out. I had to crack my window so it wouldn't be too hot. About two hours later on the way home it was pouring, and there was a really bad accident off Ajo. I drove right by it."

Dorothy is one of many seniors who live in southwest Tucson. Although she made it home safely that afternoon, she still wanted more information, a plan for driving during the monsoon.

The next day, she attended the Drexel Heights Fire District's first ever Senior Safety Program event to learn about general monsoon safety. One of the first topics covered was driving during a downpour.

Regina McCain, Drexel Heights Fire, made the presentation at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church on Ajo east of Camino de Oeste. She discussed avoiding bad weather if possible. She said key things to do if you are caught in the rain include slowing down, pulling over if you can't see, and keeping off of the brakes if you are pulled over.

Often, drivers will see brake lights and follow them. If you're pulled over and standing on your brake, she said, it could be an invitation for other cars to follow right



Margaret Haguewood examines a 3-in-1 safety flashlight given to her by the Drexel Heights Fire Department.

into your rear bumper.

McCain said the course wasn't only about monsoon driving.

"A lot of seniors are here from other places and don't know how our weather works," McCain said.

Although Spotts has lived in Tucson for 20 years, she still wanted the information.

"My back yard is on a wash. It runs through a lot of back yards there," she said.

"I wanted to know what to do if it ever overflows."

McCain suggested seniors put together a short-term survival kit in case of flooding. She also handed out 3-in-1 safety lights for the car or home.

"I want them to have a general understanding of what the elements can bring," McCain said.

Spotts said she was glad for the free

presentation.

"Start thinking about it now, then you'll be prepared when the time comes. If it ever comes. You hope not," she said, referring to flooding.

Seniors also discussed lightning safety. Key points: get off of the golf course if you see lightning and stay low if you are walking, and lightning is so close you don't dare trying to make the walk home.

McCain also covered what to do during emergencies if you're stuck in your car.

"If you're in a flooded wash, stay in your car. We say it's best if you stay in your car unless it is starting to fill up with water.

"If there's a fallen power line in your car. You want to stay inside and have someone call 9-1-1," she said. "We are coming. We find out pretty quick when cars are in washes."

McCain would know. On July 23, she was on duty when Drexel Heights responded to five separate water-related incidents. That number includes two people stuck in washes and various car wrecks including the one Dorothy Spotts saw on her way home.

The Senior Safety Program will make presentations every fourth Tuesday through June. You can call 883-4341 for times and places. On Aug. 28 at 10 a.m. and noon, the presentation will cover medical issues, especially prescription drug safety and being ready for paramedics if the need should come.

August 14, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/08/14/60075-fire-destroys-house-on-sw-side-pet-dog-ok/>

Fire destroys house on SW Side; pet dog OK

by Ryn Gargulinski on Aug 14, 2007, under Local, Special

g+1

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A fire destroyed a Southwest Side house Monday, exhausting firefighters for nearly three hours until it was extinguished, a Drexel Heights Fire Department spokeswoman said.

One firefighter injured his shoulder battling the flames, spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said. He was taken to a hospital as a precaution, she said.

Firefighters arrived around 10 a.m. after neighbors reported smoke and flames coming from the roof near an evaporative cooler on a two-story home in the 2800 block of West Cranbrook Street, near Los Reales Road and Cardinal Avenue, Koslowski said.

The fire was out at 12:51 p.m., she said.

She said the block home had wood-frame additions, including on the second floor, and was crammed with possessions.

"We battled this thing for hours," Koslowski said. "It was a mess. The house had a lot a fuel in it."

The cause of the blaze is under investigation, she said, and the damage was estimated at \$160,000.

At least 23 firefighters fought the fire, she said. Drexel's crew was assisted by nearby fire departments from the Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Pueblo. Crews had to be continuously rotated because of the extreme heat from both the fire and the sun.

She said firefighters spent the first half-hour searching the home for people and learned from relatives that the home's sole occupant, an 83-year-old male who was not identified, was out of town for the day.

The man's dog, a black Chihuahua, was thought to be missing but was later found cowering in a hiding spot in the backyard, Koslowski said.

August 14, 2007, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Judge rejects attempt to bar prosecutor

Conflict was alleged in case of 3 accused of home invasions

By Kim Smith
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Veteran Pima County prosecutor Teresa Godoy will not be barred from prosecuting a group of men accused of a series of home invasions in June 2006, a judge ruled Monday.

Last month, defense attorney Thomas Hippert asked Judge Edgar Acuña to remove Godoy and the Pima County Attorney's Office from the Thomas Michael Hernandez case, on grounds that Godoy's husband works for a co-lawyer for a defendant.

He said Joe Godoy is an investigator for the attorney representing Andy Chavarria Gonzales, accused along with Hernandez and Adrian Valenzuela of storming into five South Side homes on June 26, 2006, in hopes of robbing the occupants.

"In all my 50 years of public service I have never seen a document that was more crowded with infamous falsehoods and distortions."

Brick Storts, defense attorney, quoting former Secretary of State Cordell Hull

Martin Guillermo Rodriguez, 35, was shot and killed during the last home invasion, which took place near Valencia and Mission roads.

Valenzuela, Hernandez and Gonzales were indicted on 35 felony charges including first-degree murder, kidnapping, armed robbery and aggravated

assault.

Hippert alleged that Godoy gave a favorable plea agreement to Gonzales because her husband works as an investigator for Gonzales' attorney, Brick Storts.

Gonzales fired his first lawyer because he couldn't get an acceptable plea

agreement, but as soon as Storts became his attorney he received a favorable plea agreement, Hippert said.

Even if Teresa Godoy did not give Gonzales a good deal because of her husband, Hippert wrote, "her close per-

See LEGAL ETHICS, B2



PHOTOS BY BENJIE SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR



Firefighters rescue little dog as blaze burns man's home

Family members of a man whose house burned down got a moment to stop crying, laugh and share a brief time of happiness after firefighters rescued Baby, the man's Chihuahua, from the backyard of the burning house. The man, who is in his 80s, was out of town when his home was destroyed Monday morning. Among the relatives welcoming Baby are, above from left, Delores Mendoza, Eliza Almazan and her husband, Edgar Almazan, wearing hat, Cookie Velarde and Andrea Velarde.

The house, in the 2800 block of West Cranbrook Street, near South Cardinal Avenue and West Los Reales Road, sustained an estimated \$160,000 in damage, and its contents were destroyed, said Tracy Koslowski, a Drexel Heights Fire District spokeswoman.

2007

August 27, 2007:



SAEMS

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL

DAN SPAITE, MD; CHAIR BILL MILLER, CHIEF FRY FIRE; VICE CHAIR
TAYLOR PAYSON, MBA, CEP; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AUG 29 2007

August 27, 2007

Chief Doug Chappell
Drexel Heights Fire District
5030 C. Camino Verde
Tucson, AZ 85735

Dear Chief Chappell,

At the last regional council meeting, 2007-08 Provider grant requests were review and awarded. As in previous years, funding requests far exceed our ability to award all requests.

Your agency was awarded the following:
5 AEDS

These AEDS will be purchased through a special federal grant. This funding should be available in December or January. We will purchase these for you at that time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Taylor Payson
Executive Director

PMB 321; 6890 E. SUNRISE DR.; TUCSON, AZ 85750

520-529-1450

520-529-2369 FAX

WWW.SAEMS.NET

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Not Even For A Minute!

IN 2006, more than 792 children in the nation were reported as being injured by being left alone in a car and 220 children died as a result.

The dangers of leaving a child alone in a car can include:

- Heat stroke/Death
- Strangulation in a car window
- Injury from being backed over or setting a car in motion
- Abduction by a stranger

Children have died every year due to hyperthermia, even on 66-degree days. These children have come from all areas of the country and from all parts of society. They have been rich and poor and have come from all racial backgrounds. Parents or caregivers who have had no intention of harming their child(ren) have had to bare the unthinkable guilt and sadness of losing a child due to their own actions. Some of these parents or caregivers have arrived at a store with their baby sleeping in the car seat. Not wanting to awaken the child they leave them inside the car

because they are only going into the store for a minute. As they gather what they need in the store, a minute turns into five minutes. When they are ready to check out, the checkout line is full which in turn turns into another five minutes. As they are leaving the store, they run into a friend and talk for another five minutes. Now, all of the sudden, the child has been restrained in the car for 15 minutes.

Children are dying from being left unattended in Motor Vehicles on warm/hot days depriving the community of their unrealized potential.

In one case a child was accidentally left in a car when the outside temperature was about 86 degrees. When the child was found, two hours later, his core temperature was 107 degrees.

Heat is much more dangerous to children than it is to adults. A child's small size makes it hard for the child to shed heat. When left in a hot vehicle, a young child's core body temperature may increase three to five times faster than that

of an adult. This could cause permanent injury or even death.

In recent stats, it was found that:

- 39 percent - child "forgotten" by caregiver
- 27 percent - child playing in unattended vehicle
- 20 percent - child intentionally left in vehicle by adult
- 14 percent - circumstances unclear

Research
Studies done at the San Francisco State University Department of Geosciences tells us a car's temperature rises on average 19 degrees in the first 10 minutes after a car is closed up. It rises an average of another 10 degrees within the next 10 minutes culminating an average rise of 43 degrees within an hour.

This is a serious public health issue, and one that is entirely preventable.

Research conducted on how heat in a closed car affects infants and small children focused on dry heat and showed that the temperatures in a closed car can become dangerous to small children and infants in only minutes.

A second study showed that humid heat reduces the window of time by about half because the presence of additional water vapor in the air further diminishes the body's ability to get rid of heat.

Many people do not understand how quickly and how severely heat affects children. Unlocked cars can become deadly playgrounds for small children.

Research and real world incidents have demonstrated that on a warm, sunny day, a closed vehicle can heat up to dangerous levels in minutes, and children left in this environment can face serious injury or even death. The temperature inside a car can skyrocket quickly. It is a metal box with no air circulation. A child or anyone is not going to be able to tolerate it for very long.

On a 100 degree day your car can reach 124 degree day within 15 minutes.

On an 89 degree day your car can reach 108 degrees within 20 minutes

One study showed that with an outside temperature of 93 degrees, even with a window cracked, the temperature inside a car could reach 125 degrees in just 20 minutes

Special thanks to Deona Ryan, Pima County Child Abuse Prevention Council and Safe Kids Tucson for this information.

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 South Camino Verde.

The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Robert Bishman, Clerk James Bertrand, Member Laura Dailey, Member Ron Greil and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

SOUTH SIDE

Firefighters act out skit at schools

Drexel Heights Fire District firefighters have written a skit and built a set to illustrate water, gun and home fire safety, and they'll perform it this month in area schools.

"Pirates of Safety Island" will be at Vesey Elementary School on Monday, Miller Elementary on Wednesday, Maldonado and John E. White elementary schools Friday, Harriet Johnson Primary School next Tuesday, Laura N. Banks Elementary on Oct. 16 and Frances J. Warren Elementary on Oct. 18.

Compiled by Johanna Eubank. Call 573-4160 or e-mail jeubank@azstarnet.com.

October 2007, *Desert Times*:

AVRA VALLEY • PICTURE ROCKS • TUCSON ESTATES • THE FOOTHILLS • THREE POINTS • ROBLES JUNCTION • SOUTHWESTERN TUCSON

FREE



Drexel Heights Fire District performers practice "Pirates of Safety Island" which they will perform at schools to promote Fire Prevention Month.

Photo by Tonja Greenfield

Drexel Heights to educate area students on important safety issues

TUCSON—Drexel Heights Firefighter's are at it again!

With the Fire District's Board Members adopting a resolution identifying October as Fire Prevention Month, the firefighters have taken their "act" to the schools.

Firefighters are using a characterization production to educate kids about some very important safety messages.

They wrote a skit called "Pirates of Safety Island". The also built a set, painted props and will play the roles of the characters.

By using characters, puppets and music, firefighters gain the attention of the students so they can get their message across. Some of the safety messages include: water

safety, gun safety, and home fire safety.

Each year Drexel performs these programs they get enthusiastic reviews from teachers and school administrators.

Tour dates

Oct. 1, Vesey Elementary 1:30 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

Oct. 3, Miller Elementary 8:30 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Oct. 5, Maldonado Elementary 9 a.m. and 9:50 a.m.

Oct. 5, White Elementary 12:45 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Oct. 9, Johnson Primary 2 p.m.

Oct. 16, Banks Elementary 1:30 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

Oct. 18, Warren Elementary 1 p.m.

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Desert Times

Page 11

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by David Stone, Fire Marshal

Why residential sprinklers?

IT'S Jan. 26, 2007, late morning, you and your son decide to have something to eat for lunch. You both decide to make tacos. You begin by heating up a pan of oil to make the taco shells...from corn tortillas. Your son and you sit down and eat several tacos before returning to the garage, where you were earlier, working on a late-model car. Suddenly, you hear an alarm sounding from the residence.....running to the front door to see what is happening. When you open the front door, dark, brown smoke billows, three feet above the floor, out the door opening. You try and make entry into the house to see what is on fire. You start choking from the searing heat and smoke, and retreat back outside. (You were only able to get five feet into the house) You call 911 informing dispatch that you have a fire at your residence. The fire department arrives and enters the home with hose lines only to find a smoldering fire (no flame) above the stove. Once the smoke has cleared, with the use of fans...the firefighters encounter one lone sprinkler head discharging water from the ceiling of the kitchen. THE FIRE IS OUT! Firefighters turn off the water and begin removing a few pieces of furniture and one large area rug. What you, the readers have just read, is an actual house fire that took

place in Drexel Heights Fire District this past year.

The owner thought he was going to lose his house to the fire. The owner said he thought he had turned off the stove. Upon further investigation, the front right burner/stove was still on, still heating the oil until it started to burn, heating a nearby roll of paper towels, then the upper cabinet. What the owner did not know enough about, was how effective residential sprinklers were in extinguishing house fires, if they occur. The owner was amazed that more damage did not occur...The current owner was actually the second owner of the home. The first owner was required to install residential sprinklers because there was insufficient water supply to install a hydrant and/or the house was over 3,600 square feet.

The damage from the fire was very minimal. Fire damage was confined to the stove top and upper cabinet. Matter-of-fact, the owner was able to stay in their home that very night as there was not a need to disable the utilities to house. A local sprinkler contractor was in the area and provided a replacement sprinkler head in the kitchen and the system was back up in operation within two hours after the fire had occurred.

Automatic sprinkler systems have been

successfully used to protect industrial and commercial buildings and their occupants for more than 100 years. Historically the place which has offered the least amount of fire protection to occupants was and still is their own home. Most often, the public hears about spectacular fires in office buildings and public places, but the great majority of fire injuries and deaths occur in one's own home. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates reflect that 83 percent of fire deaths and 79 percent of fire injuries occur in residential structures. Approximately, 4,000 deaths occur per year. Eight out of 10 fire deaths occur in residential properties. The heaviest toll is taken on the elderly, the disabled, the poor, and the young. According to the U.S. Administration, the leading cause of fires in residential homes is cooking at 28 percent.

Here in the Drexel Heights Fire District we require residential sprinklers to be installed in new construction when the home reaches 3,600 square feet (livable and garage area) and/or when there isn't sufficient water supply for hydrants to be installed. We currently have two home builders (KHovnanian Homes and KB Homes) in the District that provide residential sprinklers because some of their model homes are over 3,600 square feet. Another home builder (Ducati Homes) is providing residential sprinklers for all of the homes in the custom-home subdivision regardless of the size of the home.

There are misconceptions that many people hold about sprinklers.

See FIRE Page 14

Why residential sprinklers?

FIRE from page 11

For example, that water damage from sprinklers is extensive (the flow from sprinklers is only 10-18 gallons per minute), or that every sprinkler in a room or the entire system will go off at the same time (98 percent of fires are put out by one sprinkler head). Aesthetics—when people think of sprinklers, they may think of the exposed pipe and sprinkler heads that are common in commercial facilities. The residential sprinkler heads are either flush mount type or semi-recessed heads, only protruding $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to 1 inch. Sprinklers can reduce heat, flames, and smoke, often containing or even extinguishing a fire before the fire department arrives at the scene. In the above case, the fire was extinguished before the first fire department units arrived on scene. Some people may say, "Smoke detectors will do the job, why sprinklers?" Smoke detectors and sprinklers can reduce the loss of life by 98.5 percent...an increase of 48.5 percent over smoke detectors alone.

Local sprinkler contractors install residential sprinklers at a cost between .80 to \$1 per square foot of covered area. A new home with a minimum square footage of 3,600 square foot would cost \$2,880 to \$3,600. In the recent past Drexel Heights Fire District required one inch water meters to provide the necessary water supply for the sprinkler systems. New sprinkler heads by Viking now allows the use of a 5/8 inch water meter, doing away the need for one inch water meters; reducing the costs of the water meter by approximately \$2,000. A 10-

year study performed in Scottsdale, Arizona found that the average loss of property in sprinklered homes was \$1,945 compared to \$17,067 in non-sprinklered homes.

"Home Fire Sprinkler Systems Cost Homeowner's Pennies a Day in California" A task force was developed to determine the costs involved in a residential sprinkler ordinance in Hayward, California. They used a typical home at \$400,000, the average price for a 3,000 square foot home. The cost to install the sprinkler system was estimated to be \$3,000. Using 7.75 percent interest rate on a 30-year mortgage, the cost of the sprinkler system would increase the monthly mortgage by \$20.47. Next they figured the tax and insurance savings for installing a residential system. With 28 percent federal income tax and 5 percent California state income tax, a tax credit of 46.10 per month resulted from the deduction of the interest portion of the additional \$20.47. Six insurance companies gave quotes for premium discounts from \$90 to \$165 per year. Using the middle quote of \$136 per year the savings calculated were \$11.33 per month. Adding all of the credits gave a total savings of \$17.43 per month. Subtracting that from the monthly mortgage increase of \$20.47 leaves an increase of only \$3.04 per month for the protection of a residential fire sprinkler system.

"Basically, for the price of a Happy Meal or a Starbucks's coffee, your family can be protected by a residential sprinkler system." Why residential sprinklers? They save lives!



Salute to Firefighters..... 17-21

Area firefighters are pictured to help celebrate National Fire Prevention Week.

Pet of the Month..... 9

Find out what kind of a pet doesn't mind sharing space with a lizard.

Obituaries..... 4

Find obituaries here. You can submit obituaries to the Desert Times and we will print them for free.

Community Calendar..... 24

Read about area events in the community calendar.

Halloween Safe House..... 5

Three Points Fire District is hosting its annual Halloween Safe House.

Fire district anniversary..... 5

Picture Rocks Fire District is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

COLUMNS

Dear Puppy..... 16

Foothills Fitness Forum..... 30

October 2007, *Desert Times*:

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Salute to Area Firefighters Drexel Heights Fire District



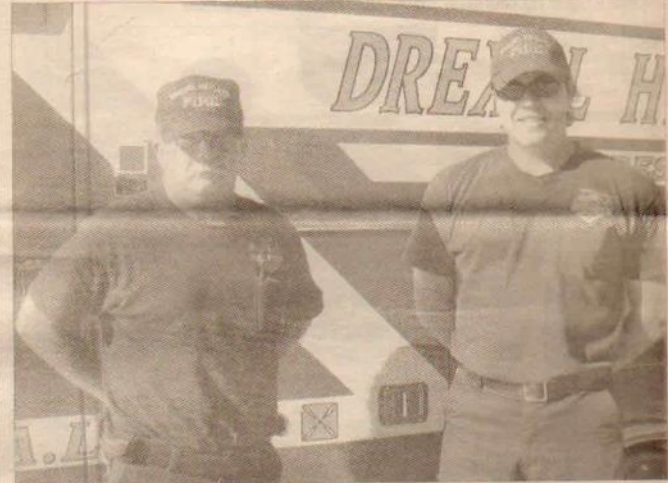
Shift B Engine 161 Eddie Arevalo, Battalion Chief Mario Acosta, and Captain Joe Bojarski



Shift A Engine 161 Tommy Kehoe, Captain Jeremy Beatty, and Rudy Aguilera



Shift B Paramedic 161 Scotti McKenzie and Beau Bicknese



Shift A Paramedic 161 Harlan Cody and Hector Munoz



Shift C Engine 161 Steven Maddux, Mari Garcia, Captain Scott Bird, and Ron Carter



Shift C Paramedic 161 Elias Martinez and David Cole

Salute to Area Firefighters Drexel Heights Fire District



Shift A Engine 162 Chad Bailey, Captain Steve Medina, and Justin Flynn



Shift B Engine 162 Lito Rodroquez and Captain Rick Peres



Shift A Paramedic 162 Mark Cowan and Lionell Salazar



Shift B Paramedic 162 Steve Siqueiros and John McCaffrey



Shift C Paramedic 162 Carl Brown and Mike Dellerman



Shift C Engine 162 Chris Patronski and Joe Soqui

Salute to Area Firefighters Drexel Heights Fire District



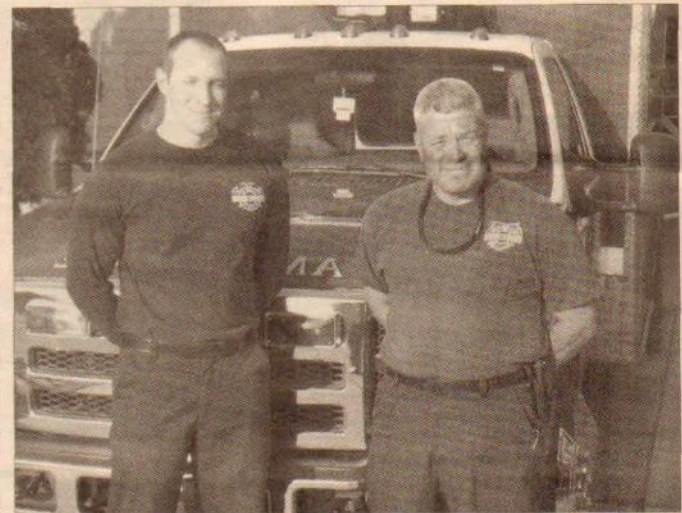
Shift A Engine 163 Maria Hawkes, Captain High McCrystal, Bill Schlenker, and Rene Lopez



Shift B Engine 163 Captain Mark Fiems and Jessie Yescas



Shift A Paramedic 163 Henry Molina and Sam Criner



Shift B Paramedic 163 Mark Walker and Rolando Rivera



Shift C Engine 163 Richard Lane, Captain Joe Bratton, and Fred Escalante



Shift C Paramedic 163 Saul Islas and Dave Wilson

October 2007, *Desert Times*:

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October 2007

Salute to Area Firefighters Drexel Heights Fire District



Shift A Engine 164 Jesse Burriss, John McGinn, and Captain Randy Trowbridge



Shift B Engine 164 Nick Ranney and Captain George Berry



Shift A Paramedic 164 Rudy Agulera and Regina McCain



Shift B Paramedic 164 Conrad Hubele and Stacy Contreras



Shift C Engine 164 Frank Mednez, Captain Andre Matus, and Jonathan Deyo



Shift C Paramedic 164 Tom Doubrava and Ben Salzer

Salute to Area Firefighters Drexel Heights Fire District



Shift A Engine 164 Jesse Burriss, John McGinn, and Captain Randy Trowbridge



Shift B Engine 164 Nick Ranney and Captain George Berry



Shift A Paramedic 164 Rudy Agulera and Regina McCain



Shift B Paramedic 164 Conrad Hubele and Stacy Contreras



Shift C Engine 164 Frank Mednez, Captain Andre Matus, and Jonathan Deyo



Shift C Paramedic 164 Tom Doubrava and Ben Salyer

October 4 & 5, 2007, *Arizona Daily Star*:

NW Fire/Rescue may get bigger

District looking at annexing two smaller ones, which would add 20,000 residents <

By Brian J. Pedersen

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Already one of the largest fire departments in the state, the Northwest Fire/Rescue District could add another 20,000 residents and more than triple its service area if it joins forces with two smaller local districts.

Calling it a regional, cooperative approach to providing better fire service, Northwest Chief Jeff Piechura has received board approval to begin preliminary discussions with the Avra Valley and Picture Rocks fire districts regarding cooperative service agreements.

Those agreements could range from as little as working together to create joint training programs to outright consolidation or merger of the districts.

For now, though, all the districts are doing is talking.

"Anything is possible in the future," Piechura said. "But to me, the future could be five or 10 years away."

Fire district mergers are not uncommon in the Tucson area. Northwest merged with Flowing Wells in 1996, a few months after Oro Valley-based Golder Ranch took over districts representing Catalina and Oracle Junction.

The Southwest Side district Drexel Heights acquired Tucson Estates in 2001, and three small Northwest Side districts — La Cañada, Heritage Hills and North Ranch/Linda Vista — are in the process of merging.

"This is the pattern throughout the country," said Vince Baker, a member of Northwest's fire board. "There would be more firefighters and trucks in the mix."

Customer base of 114,000

Northwest Fire/Rescue serves about 114,000 people over a 140-square mile area that includes most of Marana as well as unincorporated county land as far south as West Starr Pass Boulevard and as far east as North First Avenue.

Adding Avra Valley and Picture Rocks would bring in another 20,000 residents and about 300 square miles of territory, along with another 40 or so full-time firefighters to go with the 100 Northwest already has.

In presenting his plan to the Northwest fire board Sept. 25, Piechura cited Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, a conglomeration of 13 small fire departments in Oregon that consolidated between 1972 and 1996.

Consolidating, he said, would improve service, cut costs and create a streamlined approach to fire protection in the area.

"Duplicitous in government is ripe for opportunities to consolidate," Piechura said. "You'd get a bigger bang for the buck."

Consolidating into one large district?

Northwest Fire/Rescue District Chief Jeff Piechura has gotten board approval to begin talking with two smaller districts about the possibility of joining forces. A look at each district, by the numbers

District Size Residents Fire Full-time

(square miles) (approx.) stations firefighters

Northwest 140 114,000 8 100

Avra Valley 265 10,000 3 25

Picture Rocks 35 10,000 1 15

If Northwest were to merge with other districts, though, it would mean an increased financial burden on that district's existing taxpayers, one critic says.

"I do not see why the taxpayers here should have to absorb other people's liabilities and their debt," said Mary Schuh, president of the Pima Association of Taxpayers and a resident of the Northwest Fire District. "There would be no benefit."

Avra Valley could face fines

Piechura told his fire board that Avra Valley "struggles financially to make ends meet," and an investigation into how that district handled an accident involving hazardous chemicals earlier this year along Interstate 10 near Picacho Peak could lead to hefty fines.

Piechura also noted that Avra Valley is "in the growth pattern of Marana, and there is a desire to provide one level of service for all of the town of Marana."

Nearly all of Marana is serviced by Northwest, and almost all new town annexations that aren't already serviced by a fire district end up getting annexed by Northwest Fire. As it stands now, though, Marana's planned Villages of Tortolita development, which crosses the county line into Pinal County, would end up being served by both Avra Valley and Northwest, and its residents would have different property-tax rates depending on what district they were in.

Avra Valley Chief Barry Gerber said his district, which oversees about 10,000 residents spread across 265 acres in both Pima and Pinal counties, is not in any sort of financial trouble. However, it is always looking for ways to provide better service and reduce costs.

"Right now it's all a matter of discussion," said Gerber, who met officially with Piechura on Sept. 26. "Right now that (merging) is a very premature thought."

He said area districts have held informal meetings over the years about consolidating into one countywide district, but "nothing's ever gone forward any more than that."

Looking to economize

In the case of Picture Rocks, Piechura said he would like to discuss consolidation because that district's fire board had directed its chief to seek cooperative efforts with neighboring districts.

Picture Rocks Chief Kathy Stewart said her board told her to be open to the possibility of opportunities to work with other districts in an effort to help the one-station district save money.

"We are in no difficulties or anything like that," said Stewart, whose district covers about 35 square miles and serves roughly 10,000 people west of the Tucson Mountains. "It's just difficult to increase wages, keep trucks — the usual predicaments of a small district."

No meetings have been scheduled between Northwest and Picture Rocks.

Piechura also talked to his fire board about initiating talks with Drexel Heights, but that idea was put on hold after Piechura said he was told by Drexel Heights Chief Douglas Chappell that his district is not interested.

Though discussions are in the preliminary stages, officials from the union representing nearly all of Northwest's firefighters want to make sure they're involved in the process.

"You've got to have those open dialogues," said Christopher Breen, president of Local 3572, adding that it's important to "design the house before it's built."

Added Northwest fire board member Richard Nassi: "It's got to be a full cooperative effort. There are a lot of people, and a lot of issues are involved. This has a high chance of success if more people get involved early."

Consolidating into one large district?

Northwest Fire/Rescue District Chief Jeff Piechura has gotten board approval to begin talking with two smaller districts about the possibility of joining forces. A look at each district, by the numbers

District Size Residents Fire Full-time

(square miles) (approx.) stations firefighters

Northwest 140 114,000 8 100

Avra Valley 265 10,000 3 25

Picture Rocks 35 10,000 1 15

• Contact reporter Brian J. Pedersen at bjp@azstarnet.com or call 434-4079.

Drexel Heights Fire gets staffing grant

Drexel Heights Fire District was awarded a "Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response" grant from the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Fire Administration.

The grant will allow the district to hire nine firefighters over the next 12 months to increase the daily staffing of fire trucks and other equipment. The increase will result in a minimum of three firefighters on each engine and the rescue/hazmat truck on a daily basis.

The grant will begin by covering about 90 percent of each firefighter's salary in the first year, falling to no federal share in the fifth year.

► Compiled by Angela Soto. Call 573-4142 or e-mail asoto@azstarnet.com.

2007

October 6, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/10/06/65058-swashbuckling-firefighters-promote-safety-me-hardies/>

Swashbuckling firefighters promote safety, me hardies

by Ryn Gargulinski on Oct 06, 2007, under Local

8+1 0

Recommend Share 0



Drexel Heights Fire District firefighters perform "Pirates of Safety Island" on Friday for students at White Elementary School, 2315 W. Canada St. The performance was for Fire Prevention Month.



Drexel Heights Fire District firefighters perform Friday for students at White Elementary School.

Drexel Heights Fire District firefighters are not only trained to quash tall flames and haul survivors from burning buildings, but – ahoy, matey – they can act, too.

That was the consensus of students and faculty at White Elementary School, 2315 W. Canada St., where they performed Friday afternoon.

The Drexel Heights firefighters' performance, "Pirates of Safety Island," was part of their annual tour during October, which is Fire Prevention Month.

Past themes have included the "Wizard of Oz" and "Willy Wonka and the Safety Factory." The crew attends an annual camp in Bullhead City where it is trained in characterization, makeup and clowning.

That would explain its swashbuckling accents.

"It's the neatest way to educate kids," Drexel Heights spokeswoman Tracy Koslowski said.

Edna Hollins, White's assistant principal, agreed, saying it would take hours of classroom time to prepare and teach what the fire crew provides in 30 minutes.

"The students experience total involvement," she said. "It touches all their kinesthetic senses."

Drexel Heights performers included Maria Hawkes as One-Eyed Lily; John McGinn as Tele, the parrot puppet; Hector Munoz as Starboard Steve; Henry Molina as Scorch and Capt. Jeremy Beatty as Capt. Longcoat. This year's script was written by Koslowski.

"They are phenomenal people," Hollins said of the firefighting crew, and not just because of its consistently engaging performances.

"Drexel Heights is just fabulous," she said.

2007

October 10, 2007, *Arizona Daily Star*:

SAFETY FIRST, ME HEARTIES

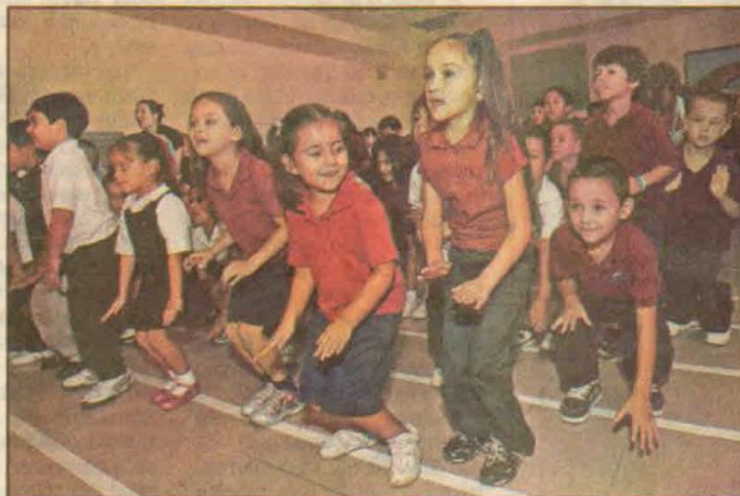


PHOTOS BY A.E. ARAIZA / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Members of the Drexel Heights Fire District performed as pirates Tuesday in delivering a skit with safety messages to more than 350 students at Johnson Primary School as part of October's Fire Prevention Month. Capt. Jeremy Beatty, who plays Captain Longcoat in the skit, called "Pirates of Safety Island," high-fives students as they leave the auditorium after the performance.



Paramedic Henry Molina offers a smoke-detector lesson as a character named "Scorch."



Kindergartners Jovan Valle, Isabelle Ybarra, Camila Swanquist and Ana-Sofia Fimbres, foreground from right, follow the dancing on the Johnson Primary stage.

October 16, 2007, <http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2007/10/16/65987-girl-6-killed-by-bullet-that-slammed-through-front-door-id-d/>

Girl, 6, killed by bullet that slammed through front door ID'd

by Ryn Gargulinski on Oct 16, 2007, under Local, Special

A 6-year-old girl killed by a bullet that slammed through a front door as she slept early Tuesday has been identified as Analissa Monares-Leon.

"The person who did this must turn himself in," Sgt. James Ogden pleaded from the 2200 block of West Dakota Street, where the girl's family lives.

Tucson Unified School District identified the girl as Analissa Monares-Leon. The Sheriff's Department initially gave a slightly different name but called to correct it.

The family lives on Dakota Street, near San Joaquin Avenue, a block marked with a few single-family residences and many two-family homes that are mainly rentals.

The girl had been a student at nearby White Elementary School, 2315 W. Canada St., where crises teams were on the scene by 9:30 a.m. "No one is ready to comment," TUSD spokeswoman Karen Bynum said of the school's students or faculty. "The emotions are too raw. They would just break down."

The fatal shot was fired around 5 a.m., Ogden said. It came from outside the home, penetrated the wooden front door and hit the youngster as she slept on a front room couch. Analissa's mother was sleeping in another room, Ogden said. She and her boyfriend had heard gunfire and got up to investigate, only to find the child mortally wounded.

Despite efforts of Drexel Height Fire District paramedics and being airlifted, the girl was pronounced dead at University Medical Center, Ogden said.

Two other children in the house were unharmed, Ogden said. He did not know the other children's ages but neighbor Jose Rodriguez said the 6-year-old had one brother and one sister.

Rodriguez, 15, said he knew the family by sight and was impressed when the girl's mother bought his younger sister ice cream from an ice cream truck about two weeks ago.

He said the family's home was also the place where neighborhood children flocked, with its swing set, basketball net and fenced yard.

"She was nice," the teen said of the mother.

The mother's boyfriend was taken into custody at the hospital in an unrelated case, Ogden said. A felony warrant sought Johnathan Rodriguez, 21, for a probation violation involving weapons misconduct. Department of Corrections records indicate Johnathan Rodriguez was released from prison in October 2006 after serving two years for aggravated assault.

Aside from Tuesday's Pima County Sheriff's large Command Center vehicle, neighbors said the block is usually quiet in the morning, but can get rough at night. Ogden said an even earlier Tuesday morning incident involved shots fired at 1:30 a.m. He said the incident involved two vehicles that were seen on the corner of San Joaquin and Dakota.

One was a newer model Chevrolet Tahoe. The other was an Oldsmobile sedan. Someone emerged from the Tahoe and fired shots at the Oldsmobile. Then both left. Ogden did not know if the earlier altercation was related to the shooting that killed the girl, but investigators are looking for both vehicles to question their owners or occupants. Jose Rodriguez and other neighbors said they slept through the 1:30 a.m. gunfire, but were shaken awake around 5 a.m.

"My bed shook, my windows shook," said Martin Hernandez, 38, who lives three doors down from where the child was shot. Unaccustomed to bullets flying down the block, Hernandez said he thought it was firecrackers. He also thought he was not at risk. "I went back to sleep," he said.

The Dakota Street block, which backs up to a view of Tucson Mountains, has improved within the past few months, he said, but loud parties and drug dealing are not unheard of. Ogden is urging anyone with information about the fatal shooting or the two vehicles reported Tuesday morning to call 911 or 88-CRIME.

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT



by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Carbon Monoxide

IT'S a killer that you can't see, smell, or taste. Initial symptoms mimic the flu, and can include: dizziness, fatigue, headache, nausea, and irregular breathing. High levels of exposure result in the death of approximately 200 people per year in the United States. This "senseless" killer is Carbon Monoxide, and the incomplete burning of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels produces it. Therefore, any fuel-burning appliance or device in your home or camp is a potential source of Carbon Monoxide.

Carbon monoxide is a by-product of combustion of fossil fuels. Fumes from automobiles contain high levels of CO. Appliances such as furnaces, space heaters, clothes dryers, ranges, ovens, water heaters, charcoal grills, fireplaces and wood burning stoves produce CO. Carbon monoxide usually is vented to the outside if appliances function correctly and the home is vented properly. Problems occur when furnace heat exchanger crack or vents and chimneys become blocked. Insulation sometimes can trap CO in the home.

CARBON MONOXIDE FACTS:

- When breathed, Carbon Monoxide

attaches itself to your body's hemoglobin and displaces the oxygen that the body organs need. Many people with CO poisoning mistake their symptoms for the flu or are misdiagnosed by physicians, which sometimes results in tragedy.

- Some people are more vulnerable to Carbon Monoxide poisoning: infants, children, senior citizens, and those with heart or lung problems.

- Appliances that are kept in good condition produce little Carbon Monoxide; however improperly operating appliances can produce fatal CO concentrations in your home.

- Using charcoal and/or propane cookers indoors, running a car in an attached garage, or using a portable "camping type" heater, lantern or stove that is not equipped with the new generation of Oxygen Depletion Sensor (ODS) can cause deadly Carbon Monoxide poisoning in your home or camp.

- Carbon Monoxide detectors are reasonably inexpensive devices, and are available for your home, boat, motor home, or tow able recreational vehicle. It is recommended that a Carbon Monoxide

detector be installed adjacent to every separate sleeping area.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

- Regularly have your fuel-burning appliances (including fireplaces/chimneys) serviced by qualified service personnel with the proper knowledge, skills, and tools. Always refer to the owner's manual when performing minor adjustment/ service of fuel-burning appliances.

- Never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle, or tent.

- Never use portable fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home garage, vehicle, or tent.

- Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.

- Never use gas appliances such as ranges, ovens, or clothes dryers for heating your home.

- Never operate non-vented fuel-fired appliance in any room with closed doors or windows or in any room where people are sleeping.

- Know the symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. Carbon Monoxide reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen, and low blood oxygen levels can result in loss of consciousness and even death. These symptoms closely mimic the flu, and are sometimes misdiagnosed.

If you experience these symptoms, it is advisable to extinguish any possible source(s) of Carbon Monoxide and move to an area with fresh air. Remember, if you

have any of these symptoms and if you feel better when you go outside of your home and the symptoms come back once you're inside again, you may have CO poisoning.

This is an extremely important safety message, particularly during the winter months. Drexel Heights Fire is strongly encouraging everyone to have their home heating systems, including their chimneys, inspected annually by a qualified technician. Also, make sure you have at least one UL listed Carbon Monoxide Detector installed in the hallway outside sleeping rooms. This type of detector is designed to sound an alarm BEFORE the carbon monoxide level in your home becomes hazardous. If a home has more than one story, a detector should be placed on each story.

For more information on the fire district's public education programs, contact the Drexel Heights Fire District at 883-4341. You can also check us out on the web www.drexelfire.net

Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 South Camino Verde.

The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Robert Bishman, Clerk James Bertrand, Member Laura Dailey, Member Ron Greil and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

2007

November 2, 2007:



Drexel Heights Fire District

The Drexel Heights Fire District Board
Invites you to attend the...

Station 3 Groundbreaking Ceremony
Friday, November 2, 2007
10:00 am
5960 S. Cardinal Ave

Please contact our Administration Center to RSVP
(520) 883-4341

Katherine Krivan, DC
Doctor of Chiropractic

3055 S. Kinney Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85713

Dear Ms Koslowski,

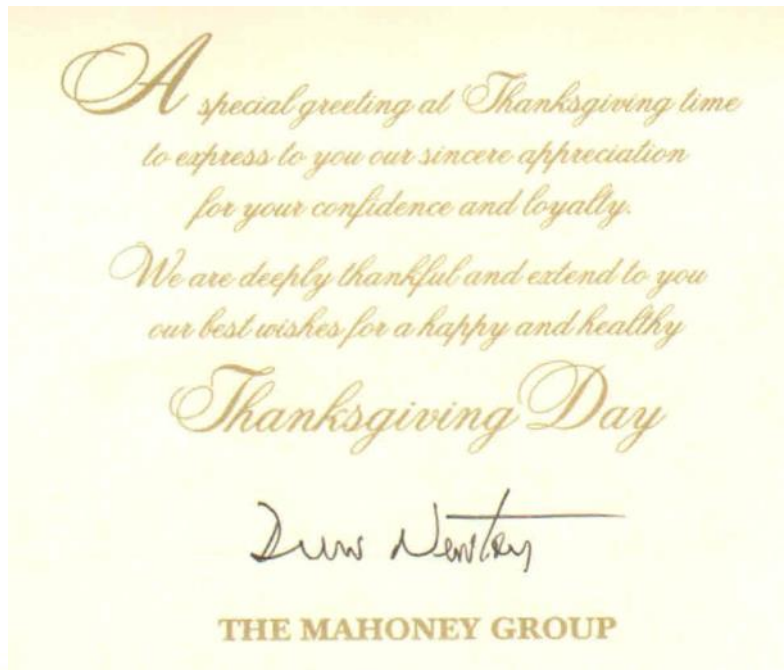
I wanted to thank you very much for your participation with our community open house on November 3rd. I certainly appreciate the members of the fire department that came. There was a good flow of traffic along the buildings, but I'm afraid that not many visitors crossed the parking lot & walked over to the fire trucks. In retrospect, I see that marking an area closer to the buildings would have worked better.

At any rate, thank you again for the department's interest & time.

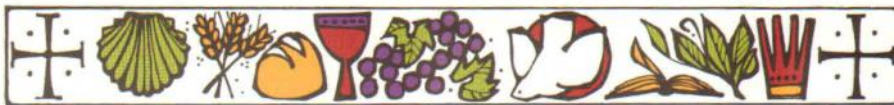
Sincerely,
KKr

2007

November 2007:



MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



4520 W. AJO WAY, TUCSON, AZ 85746 • (520) 883-0627

November 15, 2007

Drexel Heights Fire Department
5030 S. Camino Verde
Tucson, AZ 85735-8971

Dear Drexel Heights Fire Department,

Thank you for your generous donation of your truck, lights and firefighters at our 5th Annual Trunk-or-Treat, held on Halloween. Your business was acknowledged as donating to this Community Event, and because of your presence you helped make the event extra special for the over 400 people who attended. All who did attend enjoyed a fun, safe, and friendly Halloween evening.

On behalf of Mount Zion Lutheran Church, thank you again for your support. May you have a blessed, safe, holiday season.

In His service, and God bless,

Rhonda Warner
Rhonda Warner, Events Coordinator
email: mountzionoffice@aol.com

Rev. Daniel J. Valasakos
Reverend Daniel J. Valasakos

→ PS: Are you available for Halloween 2008? —
Friday, 10/31/08 —
please email or call me
to let me know.
Thx. RW

November 21, 2007, *Arizona Daily Star*:

Money woes spur Avra Valley FD layoffs

By Brian J. Pedersen

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Avra Valley Fire District's governing board voted Tuesday night to lay off more than half its firefighters and close one of its two active stations in a last-ditch effort to keep the struggling district from going under.

"I see no other alternative," board vice chairman Joe Cross told more than 75 people in attendance at the Halberg Community

Center, next to the fire district's headquarters. "This begins to get us in line with where we need to be."

The board voted 5-0 to reduce the number of firefighters on a shift from seven to three.

Those three — a captain, a medic and one emergency medical technician — will be responsible for fire protection throughout the 265-square-mile district that stretches from West Manville

Road on the far west side of the Tucson area to Picacho Peak in Pinal County.

The layoffs — administrative staff was also cut — go into effect next Wednesday.

"This is going to hurt a lot of people, and someone's going to end up dying," firefighter Paul Petersen said.

The board did not decide which firefighters to let go, though it did agree to demote its three battalion

chiefs to captains and its three captains to either medics or EMTs.

"We have to start somewhere," board member Bill Scott said. "We're in a corner right now."

The remaining firefighters will operate out of its main station on West Silverbell Road near North Trico Road, while its station in Pinal County will be shuttered.

Station 191, on North Anway

See AVRA VALLEY, A4

AVRA VALLEY

Continued from Page A1

Road near Manville, has been closed since Oct. 24 after black mold was found.

Avra Valley has automatic aid agreements with other neighboring fire districts that will help cover some areas of the district in case of multiple calls or large emergencies, but those agreements will likely need to be revised since Avra Valley no longer will be able to provide the same kind of aid to its neighbors.

The reductions were in response to an audit being done by representatives from area fire districts, who through an intergovernmental agreement between Avra Valley and the Northwest Fire/Rescue District have been going over all facets of Avra Valley's operation.

Though the fire board had said it would wait until receiving a final report before discussing layoffs, Cross said a preliminary report indicated that Avra Valley does not have enough money to continue operating at its current staffing level.

"The checkbook is making decisions for us," Cross said.

The report — presented by Northwest Fire Chief Jeff Piechura, Golder Ranch Fire Chief John Fink and Drexel Heights Fire Chief Doug Chappell — noted that as of last Friday Avra Valley had \$57,730 in available cash, barely enough to cover its biweekly payroll of about \$55,000, which is next

due Nov. 30.

The district also has \$106,400 in unpaid bills, many of which are 30 to 90 days past due, and on average is spending about \$190,000 per month.

"Whether or not the check is in the mail ... the current trend of your revenues and expenditures is diametrically opposed," Piechura told the board.

District records indicate it anticipates receiving \$247,000 in payments — mostly from ambulatory services — through the end of the year, but at the same time there are \$710,000 in pending cash liabilities. That includes the \$366,000 in fines levied by the Industrial Commission of Arizona for workplace safety violations, which Avra Valley is appealing.

The fines stemmed from an Arizona Department of Occupational Safety and Health investigation last spring that came about after complaints of how Avra Valley handled an accident involving hazardous materials on Interstate 10 near Picacho Peak.

Some of the Avra Valley firefighters who will find themselves out of work next week were thrown a potential lifeline by Golder Ranch's Fink, who said his district has five vacancies that he can fill on a temporary basis for up to 90 days.

Fink's offer was met by a round of applause.

► Contact reporter Brian J. Pedersen at bjp@azstarnet.com or call 434-4079.

DESERT TIMES

AVRA VALLEY • PICTURE ROCKS • TUCSON ESTATES • THE FOOTHILLS • THREE POINTS • ROBLES JUNCTION • SOUTHWESTERN TUCSON

FREE



Photo submitted
Pictured above at the groundbreaking ceremony were Lynn Davis, Bill Sharp, Sharon Bronson, Herschel Catlin, Mrs. Catlin, James Bertrand, Ron Greil, R.M. Bishman, Ron Eagan, Jayne Stepnoski, Ethel Sharp, and Lucy Prior.

Ground breaking held for new structure in Drexel Heights Fire District

TUCSON — Drexel Heights Fire District was established in 1954. Since then the department has seen many new changes.

One recent change will be the rebuilding of one of their fire stations.

Thanks to the bond voters approved in September of 2002, the fire district will move forward in rebuilding Station 3 located at 5960 South Cardinal.

The station was originally built in 1973 after three years of construction at the

hands of the firefighters and neighbors in the community. Since 1973, Station 3 has had four additions added on as the department grew.

The new structure will be built adjacent to the existing one, keeping the apparatus and the firefighters in service throughout the construction process.

Construction should begin sometime next month and it will take 10 months from the start of construction to complete the project.

sample ballot.

DEMOCRACY IS OPTIONAL

Phoenix bond attorney Fred Rosenfeld told this writer that he has done bond work for 40 years and that many or all bond elections were held without notice until the 1990s, and that the governing statute states "may," which allows the option. When asked if lack of notice served the democratic process, Rosenfeld replied, "Democratic process is set by the legislature and is optional."

Rosenfeld's attitude towards the democratic process might be explained by the fact that he received fees of about \$20,000 when the bonds passed, and would only have received his costs if it failed. Based on that representation, according to June 14, 2007, Fire District Board minutes, the vote was 4 – 0 to retain him as Bond Counsel.

Picture Rocks Fire Chief Kathy Stewart acknowledged the fire district did "the least legally required," and that it was "unfortunate that more people were not informed." She expressed appreciation for the support of those that did vote.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS HELP AVRA VALLEY

The Picture Rocks Fire Department was also in the news as part of an effort to keep the Avra Valley Fire District from collapsing. Faced with \$800,000 in debt, the resignation under pressure of Fire Chief Barry Gerber, and the related resignation of fire board

chairman Gary Perry, the district is in serious trouble. Experts from other area fire districts – Picture Rocks, Northwest, Drexel Heights, and Golder Ranch – are auditing the district's books and operations to see what needs to be done to keep Avra Valley Fire functioning. Their board, meanwhile, is concentrating on ways to cut spending and generate revenue, including a possible Valentine's Day dance.

AVRA WATER CO-OP ANNUAL MEETING ELECTS DIRECTORS

With a quorum present, Avra Valley Water Co-op held its annual meeting on Nov. 14 at Picture Rocks Intermediate School. General Manager Chris Ward reported that there had been no major outages during the year, and that new wells were producing plenty of water below the new arsenic limits for Avra's 2,570 customers. Ward also said that the co-op had ended its fiscal year under budget and had added 6.5 miles of new water lines and more than 60 hydrants. A 24 percent rate increase, the first in six years, took effect last July, approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission.

For Your Next New I

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...See

December 2007

Desert Times

Page 9

Drexel Heights FIRE DISTRICT

by Tracy Koslowski, Public Education/Information Manager

Winter fire safety tips

DREXEL Heights Fire District asks our community to be aware of a potential killer that lurks in every home. That killer is FIRE, and it has struck many communities throughout the United States quickly and often without warning this winter season. Research suggests that more than one-third of home fires in the United States occur during the winter months of December, January, and February. These months pose a higher fire threat due to the increased use of heating sources such as chimneys and wood stoves, as well as fuel-fired and electric heaters. Drexel Heights Fire District stresses the following safety tips for this winter season:

Have an escape plan and practice it regularly. Make sure all family members, especially children, know how to get out of the house from several locations, and have a prearranged place for everyone to meet once they are out.

A single candle, when placed near most upholstered furniture, a personal computer, newspapers, Christmas trees, stuffed toys or drapes, is more than capable of starting

a fire that will destroy a home, as well as everything and everyone in it. Deaths from candle fires have more than doubled over the last decade. For a safer home: Avoid large displays of burning candles. Never leave candles burning when you are not there to watch them. Keep burning candles out of the reach of children or pets. Keep candles away from drafts and vents. Trim wicks to 1/4" prior to each use. Always use containers that have been made for use with candles. Extinguish candles before they reach the bottom of their holders, and keep matches, wick trimmings and foreign objects out of the candle wax.

THERE'S MORE YOU CAN DO TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE:

- Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords. Do not run extension cords under rugs or in the normal path(s) of travel.
- Keep exits free of furniture or other household items.
- Have your furnace and chimney professionally inspected and cleaned. Chimney tar build-up can ignite your chimney, roof, and the whole house.

- Keep cigarettes, lighters, and matches away from children.

- Do not try to extinguish a house fire. Get everyone out and then call 9-1-1.

- Install SMOKE DETECTORS and keep them maintained. Proper maintenance includes testing monthly, battery replacement twice annually, and always keeping them clean.

Space heaters provide supplemental heating, but it trails only cooking equipment as the leading cause of home fires (according to the NFPA). Here are some safety tips regarding space heaters:

- Space Heaters need SPACE. Keep combustibles at least three feet away from each heater.
- Turn the heater off when you leave the room, or when you sleep.
- Use space heaters only for their intended purpose.
- When buying a new unit, make sure it carries the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Be sure that a qualified technician installs the unit or checks that the unit has been installed properly. Look for automatic shut-off features and heating element guards.
- Fuel portable kerosene heaters in a well-ventilated area away from flames or other heat sources, and only when the device has cooled completely. Use only the type of kerosene specified by the manufacturer, and never use gasoline.
- Be sure any gas-fueled heating device is installed with proper attention to ventilation, and, if un-vented gas space heaters are used in bedrooms or bathrooms,

they must be small and wall-mounted.

- If your electric space heater has a frayed cord or overheats, don't use it. Also avoid using extension cords with electric space heaters. If an extension cord must be used, make sure that the cord is of the right size (gauge) and type for your heater. Keep the power cord away from high traffic areas.

Remember to practice PREVENTION. Install smoke detectors on all levels of your home and make sure that they work. When a fire breaks out, a working smoke alarm, functioning as an early-warning system, reduces the risk of dying by nearly 50 percent. Simply buying smoke alarms is not enough; proper installation and maintenance are vital steps of home fire safety. If your holiday celebrations include candles, trees and lights, enjoy them safely. But be aware that the very things that bring warmth to your home also can bring tragedy if used improperly.

For more information on Drexel Heights Fire District programs, please call us at 883-4341. You can also check us out on the web at www.drexelfire.net. Drexel Heights Fire District Board meets on the second Friday of each month at 9 a.m., in the training classroom next to Station # 1, located at 5030 South Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired. Your Fire District Board is Chairperson Ron Greil, Clerk James Bertrand, Member R.M. Bishman, Member Laura Dailey, and Member Jayne Stepnoski.

December 11, 2007, *Arizona Daily Citizen*:

Tucson family's home damaged in overnight blaze

DECEMBER 11, 2007 12:00 AM • BY DALE QUINN ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A Monday night fire has forced a family of four out of its Southwest Side home and caused about \$150,000 in damage, an official said.

The fire started about 8:30 p.m. when a lamp that had fallen during a power outage ignited a flammable material when the electricity came back on, said Tracy Koslowski, a spokeswoman for the Drexel Heights Fire Department.

The fire in the 2900 block of West Calle Canario, near West Valencia Road and South Camino de la Tierra, was intensified by several oxygen tanks stored in the room where the fire started, Koslowski said. The homeowner has health problems that require use of the oxygen tanks, she said.

The three people in the home were able to escape without injury, Koslowski said. The inside of the home sustained severe smoke and fire damage, she said.

It took 16 firefighters 25 minutes to contain the fire, Koslowski said.

The family, which consists of four adults, is being assisted by the Red Cross and Drexel Heights firefighters.

2007

December 2007:



Greater Tucson Fire Foundation

Thanks you for taking an interest in Tucson Fire Department history —

This is one of many sections that contain information, documents, letters, newspaper articles, pictures, etc. They have been collected and arranged in chronological order or by a subject. These items were collected, organized and entered into a computerized database by Dave Ridings Assistant Chief Tucson Fire Department, Al Ring friend of the department, Greater Tucson Fire Foundation and with the help of many friends and fellow firefighters.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles. This also applies to other items such as documents, letters, etc.

Credit to the source of the documents, photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. The *Arizona Daily Star*, The *Tucson Citizen* and the *Tucson Daily Citizen*, for which we want to give a special thanks.

Please use this information as a reference tool only. If the reader uses any of the information for any purpose other than a reference tool, they should get permission from the source.

Should the reader have additional information on the above subject we would appreciate you sharing it with us. Please see the names and contact information on the 1st. TFD Archives page right below this paragraph.

